2nd alleged victim testifies in Roberto trial. » PAGE 3

MVA: 2,000-room casino resort can bring $1.8B windfall. » PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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DB interest payments out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Former and current government employees received Friday afternoon a total of more than $10 million in interest payments on withdrawn defined benefit plan contributions, forming a line outside the Finance secretary's office on Capital Hill for at least two hours.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the total amount of paper checks distributed on Friday was "more than $10 million" for some 1,730 individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Only those who haven't filed their Form W9, those off-island and those with inactive accounts haven't gotten their DB interest payment checks," Larson said in an interview at yesterday's 2014 Labor Day festivities in Susupe.

Nelson Ebilane, 52, said he's setting aside a portion of the DB interest payments for his children's schooling,

See PAYMENTS on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Individuals patiently fall in line outside the Department of Finance secretary's office building on Capital Hill Friday afternoon to get their checks representing the interests on their withdrawn NMI Retirement Fund defined benefit plan contributions. Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said the DB interest payment checks disbursed totaled more than $10 million for some 1,730 individuals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Two CNMI corals listed as threatened

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two corals in the Commonwealth—*Acropora globiceps* and *Pavona diffluens*— have been classified as threatened on a list put out last week by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The two corals are among 20 other threatened species on NOAA'S 2014 Corals Endangered Species Act listing for areas in U.S. Caribbean and Pacific waters.

Acropora globiceps and *Pavona diffluens* are also listed as threatened in Guam, as well as in other Pacific areas like the Pacific Remote Islands

See CORALS on Page 4

Labor Day picnic is 'a day of relief' for many

Men and women from the Department of Public Safety show their might against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in a tug-of-war game in yesterday's 2014 Labor Day festivities at the Civic Center in Susupe, while DPS officers including Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero cheer them on. The 10-member CUC team, however, won this round of the game.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Sunday's Labor Day celebration was deluged with rain, but that did not dampen the spirits of the hundreds of government employees who occupied the Civic Center in Susupe for the day-long event.

After a long pause in hosting the celebration, yesterday's festivity marked the second consecutive year of recognizing government agencies and their employees for their commitment to service by gathering all three branches of government in one location.

Hundreds of employees and employers alike celebrated the day with food, friends, and family under their respective agency's tent.

The theme "One heart, One family,

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Three casinos will close in Atlantic City in a few short weeks.
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Local

EPA awards over $4M to CNMI for environmental protection

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded over $4 million to the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands in federal funds for CNMI environmental programs to continue environmental protection work.

The most recent grant of over $892,000 supplements an award of $3.16 million provided earlier in the year for environmental protection work.

"EPA's funding enables CNMI to advance its goals in the pursuit of clean air, water and land," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator. "The continued program work and improvements will greatly benefit the residents of CNMI and their precious island resources."

The critical funding will go to support the operations of the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. The work done by the agency includes inspections, monitoring the safety of beaches and drinking water, and permit writing. Priorities include:

■ Protection of the Achugao Watershed by reducing contamination flowing into the streams. The watershed is divided into two sub-catchments (north and south) that are drained by three main streams, referred to as Achugao 1, 2, and 3. Potential pollution sources discharging into the streams are outhouses, illegal on-site disposal systems, piggeries, urban runoff, and livestock grazing. Monitoring data will be collected to assess the water quality of the streams and determine what is contributing to the impairment of the near shore waters of Tanapag Village.

■ Protection of coral reefs and indigenous plants and wildlife by promulgating updated Water Quality Standards for water quality monitoring and beach monitoring protection, and to ensure clean beaches for swimming and fishing. In addition, sediment monitoring for toxics and heavy metals is planned for two of the Achugao Watershed streams.

■ Removal of buried drums, discarded batteries, and contaminated soil on Managaha Island. This Brownfields program work should be completed by February 2015.

■ Promotion of islandwide household hazardous waste collection as part of an environmental outreach and education program.

■ Ensuring potable drinking water for residents of the CNMI;

■ Elimination of the illegal importation of pesticides and use of unregistered/foreign pesticides;

■ Inspections to help ensure safe underground and above ground fuel storage tanks;

■ Emergency response, hazardous waste, and clean air program management;

■ Improvements to automate, standardize, and provide real-time access for sharing environmental data.

The EPA's Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) administers and enforces federal environmental laws in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and 148 tribal nations—home to more than 48 million people. ***(USEPA)***

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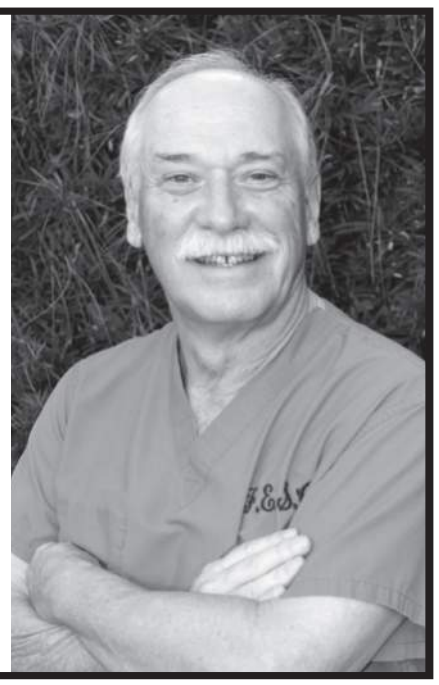

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber membership meeting on Wednesday

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's September general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, with the meeting starting at noon.

The main guest speaker is Alan Fletcher, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. His presentation will include the Integrated Resource Plan and the soon-to-be-in-place Incentive Rate for those who self-generate. Also speaking is Christopher Tenorio regarding the PSS Cooperative Education Program.

Luncheon cost for SCC members is $20. Non-member cost is $30. ***(SCC)***

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 5, from 7pm to 11:59pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Family grief support meeting on Sept. 4

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday Sept. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. For more information, call Donna Krum at 783-0755 or e-mail donnakrum@gmail.com or Jill Derickson, at jilld@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

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2nd alleged victim takes the witness stand in Roberto trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The second of three alleged underage victims took the witness stand in federal court on Friday and narrated her sex encounters with Raymond B. Roberto.

The 16-year-old girl, who was allegedly tagged by Roberto as "Shy Girl," will continue her testimony when the jury trial of the 41-year-old Roberto resumes tomorrow morning, Tuesday.

The second alleged victim recounted to jurors the time when Roberto picked her and two other girls in Kagman in April 2013 and brought them to Parkville Motel in Gualo Rai. She said the motel room was dark and one of the girls pulled her to the bed. She said she was scared.

When asked by Assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy if at some point Roberto did something to her, the girl bowed her head, paused for a few seconds, then replied that it made her uncomfortable.

When Badawy pressed her to be specific, the girl said, "I don't like the question."

"It was wrong. Everything," the girl added after pausing for few seconds, then started swinging her chair from left to right.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who is presiding over the trial, asked the girl why she appears hesitant to answer questions.

The girl just bowed her head, not giving a reply.

When Badawy asked another question, the girl answered that she did not see anything inside the room at that time because it was dark.

» 'Shy Girl' says everything 'was wrong'

She did not reply, however, when Badawy pressed her on what she meant by "everything was wrong." The prosecutor said he will just ask the same question later in his direct examination.

The girl said she and her friend then went inside the motel's bathroom to rinse, while Roberto, whom she called "Jerald," was in bed with the third girl.

The first victim earlier testified that she used the name "Jerald" in her cell phone's contact number for Roberto so no one would learn when somebody sees her phone.

"Shy Girl" said she heard the third girl moaning, but didn't hear anything from Roberto.

She said all four of them then left the motel and went to a cockpit where Roberto got money from someone inside. She said it was only Roberto who got down from the car. She said when Roberto came back, he gave them $100 each.

The alleged victim said that Roberto dropped her and her friend off at a building near Power 99 in Garapan because one of the girls would meet her boyfriend there. She said Roberto dropped her other friend at another place.

"Shy Girl" said she and the two other girls at one time stayed at her aunt's house, where she would take care of her [aunt] and her husband's children.

When shown some text messages, "Shy Girl" recognized them as her friend's exchange of text messages with Roberto.

She admitted that she participated in those text conversations with Roberto and recognized which ones were her messages.

She identified as her text messages those that Roberto and her friend referred to as "Shy Girl." She said it was Roberto and her friend who called her in those messages as "Shy Girl."

The first alleged victim earlier testified that Roberto negotiated for her to bring "Shy Girl."

The second girl recalled that Roberto again picked her and her friend and they went back to Parkville Motel last year. She said Roberto asked her to hide in the car while the attendant was talking to him.

At this juncture, Manglona announced a long weekend break. She told the girl to resume her testimony tomorrow, Tuesday.

The second girl started her testimony on Friday morning, after Roberto's lead counsel David J. Lujan completed his extensive questioning of the first alleged victim. After Lujan's cross-examination, Badawy then questioned the first girl.

Roberto, a former acting Division of Fish and Wildlife director, is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one

Home invasion as felony, burglar registry bills head to Senate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Two House of Representatives bills seeking to strengthen laws against home invasion and burglary or theft are now headed to the Senate. One seeks to make home invasion a felony and a separate violation under CNMI law, while the other one creates a new registry for persons convicted of burglary, robbery, or theft, similar to the existing registry for sex offenders.

By a vote of 15-0, the House passed without amendment at 3:34pm on Thursday Rep. Roman Benavente's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-120 that requires all persons convicted of burglary, robbery, or theft to register with the Department of Public Safety.

The burglary registry seeks to notify the community about the location of registered offenders when necessary to ensure public safety.

"If you are a frequent violator, it will be let known [to the public]. Based on DPS recommendation, this bill will also serve as a deterrent. Once you're in the registry, the community will know that you were convicted of burglary, theft, or robbery," Benavente said during the session.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also spoke of the merits of HB 18-120 or "The Burglary, Robbery and Theft Offenders Registration Act."

"It is an [added] tool for DPS similar to the sex offender registry. Not only the community will know where [burglars] reside but DPS will also know where they reside," the speaker said.

Deleon Guerrero, for his part, said tourists are also victims of thefts, hurting the CNMI's only major industry.

According to the bill's author, the CNMI has seen so many burglary, theft, and robbery cases the past few years. In 2008, the cases totaled 1,956 and went up to 2,079 in 2009. The number of cases reached 1,687 in 2010; 1,817 in 2011; 1,560 in 2012; and 257 in the first quarter of 2013.

Benavente, in his bill, said there had been 14 murders committed in either the homes of community members or as a result of robberies since 1995.

The House also passed without amendment at 3:44pm on Thursday Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-181, which seeks to provide more legal protection for victims of home invasion. The bill passed by a vote of 15-0.

The author introduced the bill in March, owing to the increased number of burglaries, robberies, or some form of home invasions, at least 16 of which also resulted in 16 homicides since 2005. Other crimes in victims' homes also included rape, assaults, and other violent crimes.

Leon Guerrero earlier said the Commonwealth "still does not have an anti-home invasion statute" despite the many violent crimes committed against its people.

Co-authored by four other House members, the bill seeks to amend Title 6 of the CNMI Code to add a new section on home invasion crimes. A person is guilty of the offense of home invasion, a felony, if a person enters or remains unlawfully in an inhabited dwelling with the intent to commit a crime where a person is present or with the intent to use force or violence upon another person, or to vandalize, deface or damage another's property in the course of committing the offense, the bill states.

HB 18-181 proposes to make home invasion a felony, punishable by 10 to 25 years in prison, with a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence, without parole, and a fine not less than $10,000 but not more than $50,000, or both.

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SHARING HER IMMIGRANT STORY

CNMI Bar president Kara, a political refugee at 11

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Bar Association president Maya B. Kara shared her remarkable immigrant story that landed her in New York as a political refugee at age 11 when she and her family escaped to the West from Hungary.

Kara, an immigration lawyer, served as guest speaker during a naturalization ceremony for 19 newest U.S. citizens at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday.

In her remarks, Kara disclosed that she is an immigrant and that English is her third language.

Kara spent her childhood in Hungary, a small country in central Europe with a population of 10 million. At that time, during the Cold War, Hungary was under the rule of the Soviet Union.

"Life was very difficult. Everyone was afraid of the government and of each other," she recalled.

Kara said people were arrested and killed without any due process just for saying the wrong thing or criticizing the government.

Kara

She remembered that during the student protest movement in 1956 that spread to the whole country, people rose up against the government and against the Soviet occupation.

"Initially, the Russians withdrew and we celebrated our victory and the hope of a better life, a free life. But soon the Russians returned and the people fought the tanks in the streets," she said.

She recounted women and children like her filling bottles with gasoline to supply the fighters with Molotov cocktails, but they were outnumbered and outgunned.

"Over 2,500 died and 200,000 escaped to the West, my family among them," she said.

Kara disclosed that her father was on a death list as he was a commander of a sector of the city, and that all his comrades who didn't escape were arrested and shot.

Kara arrived as a political refugee in New York at 11 and became a U.S. citizen at 18.

She said that people come to America in hopes of a better life and this hasn't changed in the last 238 years. She said many come for economic opportunity, others come to avoid persecution, some come to become members of a democratic society, and some come simply to have peace and security.

Because she is an immigrant as well as U.S. citizen, Kara has both an outsider's and insider's perspective on life in America.

To her, the American character is defined by certain qualities such as independence and self-reliance, egalitarianism and fairness, and rule of law.

Kara said the rule of law is embedded in the American legal and political system.

"The Constitution, not individuals, governs the country. No one, not even the President, is above the law. Power ultimately rests in the voters," she said.

Kara cited the 2000 presidential election, in which Al Gore won the popular vote but the electoral vote was unclear because of ballot counting issues in Florida. She said whoever won in Florida would be the next president so the country waited for over a month for an outcome and the case was sent to the U.S. Supreme Court, which later ruled that George W. Bush was the winner.

Kara said half of the voters, in a country of over 300 million people, who had voted for Al Gore were disappointed and furious. Various forms of misconduct and impropriety were alleged. In many other countries, there would have been violent protests on the streets, confrontations between the police and civilian populations; there would likely have been armed insurrection, possibly civil war.

"But in the U.S., life went on. People respected the process even if they disliked the result," she pointed out.

Kara congratulated the 19 newest U.S. citizens, who are "embarking on a new life for themselves and for their children and children's children."

"I know you will each contribute your individual special talents to your new country. And that is what makes the United States of America so great!" she told the new citizens.

CORALS

From Page 1

and American Samoa.

Acropora globiceps is commonly found on upper reef slopes and reef flats in shallow, tropical reef environments, and at a depth of up to 8 meters, according to data on threatened species found online.

Pavona diffluens occurs in most reef environments, and is found from 5 to 20 meters.

NOAA describes the recent listing as "unprecedented" in the amount of information sought, obtained, and analyzed in the ruling of threatened species.

General reef building coral biology, habitat characteristics and threats, as well as other species-specific and demographic information were studied, according to NOAA.

NOAA said they intend to work with other agencies as well as possibly affected coastal jurisdictions on "mitigation measures and recovery strategies for the newly listed corals."

As of now, there are no prohibitions on the two species relating to individual contact as they are listed as threatened and not endangered; prohibitions against taking are for species listed as endangered under ESA.

However, NOAA said—on the listing—that they may specify regulations for the 20 threatened corals in the future.

Last week's list is significantly different from the proposed role in 2012, which listed 66 threatened and endangered species.

NOAA said changes were brought on by new information gathered and received, as well public comments that helped refine their decisions.

PAYMENTS

From Page 1

including for one of them now attending Guam Community College.

"I'm happy to finally get the interest payment. I will be able to support my kids more," the father of five said, as he was also looking forward to the Labor Day weekend.

Ebilane was among those who fell in line outside the Finance secretary's office on Capital Hill on Friday afternoon amid the sweltering heat, to get their checks. He said he worked for 15 years with the Public School System's maintenance division, and contributed to the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan during those years.

Like hundreds of others who withdrew their DB contributions last year, Ebilane was relieved to also get the interest payments on those DB contributions on Friday.

"I thought this day would never come," he added.

The more than $10 million in distributed DB interest payments came from the $30 million two-year advance license fees that casino resort developer Best Sunshine International Ltd. paid.

Larson said yesterday that some $11.9 million was also released two weeks ago for retirees' 25 percent pension for nine months, or from October 2013 to June 2014.

"We have enough for everything, DB interest and 25-percent pension payments," Larson said.

Retirees' 25-percent pension checks for the months of July, August, and September will be released in early October. Future disbursements are expected to be on a quarterly basis.

A 49-year-old Kagman resident, who also got his DB interest payment check on Friday, said the payment arrives at the right time because he has three children now about to go back to school, and two of them will be attending Northern Marianas College.

"I'm happy. It's what I expected," said the father of three and who still remains in government after putting in 23 years of contributions to the DB plan before withdrawing those last year. He said he will also use a portion of those to pay off "some debts."

Many of those who were approached on Friday for an interview while they were in line to get their DB interest payment checks refused to be identified nor interviewed over concerns that their relatives would ask for financial help from them at a time when they, too, are in need of money for their children's education and other household expenses.

"I just want to get it now," one of them said.

Yonie Dejillas, 73, said he will deposit "99.99 percent" of his money in the bank.

"It will be emergency money, savings money," he said, while waiting for his turn to get his DB interest payment check. "I am happy and I have no regret."

Dejillas worked with PSS for 22 years and contributed to the DB plan that long.

About an hour later, however, Dejillas was still waiting inside the Finance secretary's office, which was still trying to locate his check.

"I hope they will find it," he said, adding that he immediately filed his Form W9 as soon as the Finance secretary's office announced the need to file such tax form in preparation for the release of DB interest payment checks.

Police officers from the Department of Public Safety also helped maintain peace and security around the Finance secretary's office building during the check distribution.

Henry Hofschneider, special adviser to the Saipan mayor, said he would have wanted his DB plan contributions intact so he can retire financially secured.

"That was the grand plan but something went wrong. Now we will all be on Social Security. We're expecting a better retirement," he said, adding that the funds he got would be used partly for his children's school needs.

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider said yesterday that the Inos administration is delighted that the DB interest payment checks were released as soon as it can.

"We appreciate the patience, over time, of the employees that are affected by this decision. I do know that it's a very significant part of every government employee that elected to join in that group [DB plan]," Hofschneider said at the Labor Day festivities.

The acting governor hopes those who got their DB interest payments would use them "wisely."

"I continue to encourage them to take care of it and make sure that they use it wisely because that's funds that were hard earned over at least the last 20 years. As indicated in the settlement plan, this is part of it. We are happy that it's moving forward," added Hofschneider, who is seeking to run again as a senator representing Tinian in the Nov. 4 general elections.

Acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) separately said yesterday that there was also a line at Rota's Finance office building on Friday for the release of DB interest payments.

"I'm glad the DB interest checks were released also on Rota," he said.

The Finance secretary, meanwhile, said she's thankful for the Finance staff for their hard work and diligence in working on the release of the DB interest payments. The check distribution started at 1pm on Friday. At about 3:30pm, almost all the checks were distributed by the Finance office on Saipan.

In October last year, the NMI Retirement Fund disbursed over $40 million in remaining defined benefit plan employee contributions refunded by over 1,700 individuals. That time, checks ranged from $20,000 to $100,000, based on interviews with some of the members.

LABOR

From Page 1

One CNMI" was evident and could be seen on the event's t-shirts worn by participants.

A total of 35 tents crowded the site, according to Labor Day Committee chair Manny M. Pangelinan.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that the Labor Day committee is a non-profit organization that does not receive any government funds to organize the event.

"We have to raise our own money," he said. "I admire Gov. S. Eloy Inos for setting that standard. This shows that other functions can be self-sustaining. It also shows that everyone can put a little more effort and ask less from the government for any type of event."

Ultimately, Pangelinan said, the overarching message he hopes people will take away from the event is: "Thank you for the work they have done in our community every year."

He said that Sunday's festivity is not about the management but the employees. "They are the ones making things happen. They deserve the recognition."

The Public School System, Commonwealth Election Commission, and the Office of the Public Auditor were the only organizations without a booth.

The event featured various contests and games as well.

For the best decorated booth, first place went to the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Corrections took second place and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. got third.

The Saipan Mayor's Office won the "best barbecue" title for their food on the grill. The recipe belonged to Spencer Marchadesch. The secret ingredients, he said, were team work and a lot of love.

The competitions were judged by Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind.-Saipan), and Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Employees also took part in a tug-of-war competition, basketball tournament, relay race, and a chacha dance-off.

With fun, joy, and laughter filling the air, many employees described the celebration as a "day of relief for everyone."

Associate Judge Ken Govendo, for his part, said he is elated to be a part of the event.

"This event is an important one because employees in the government get together to celebrate their labor. We are all working for the common good," he added.

Jacqueline Che, Northern Marianas College director of Institutional Effectiveness, echoed Govendo. "It is wonderful to see government organizations celebrate their work and the good work of all of us. It is really inspiring."

She added that NMC continues to work for the prosperity and well-being of the islands.

"NMC is a ray of light and hope for the community. When people look at NMC they see an educational institution that can uplift a community," she said.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña described the event as a day of appreciation. She said the employees in the frontline at the hospital often go unnoticed.

"We tend to forget the employees, especially in the hospital. This is an opportunity as one big family to get together and just enjoy the day and have some fun," Muña said.

One nurse, who works 12-hour shifts, said she appreciates the effort people put into the event in tribute for people like her.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said, "We all work really hard day in and day out. It is nice to have a day to have fun and get together. We do not have a lot of days like this. It gives us family time, not only as co-workers but as friends."

"Today we do not need to watch the clock," she added.

An employee of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Selena Forman, who has worked for the library for eight years, came to the event with her son. She said the event was "refreshing."

"Everyone at the library works together to provide service to the community. I feel happy to provide people with books and resources every year," she said.

The Labor Day celebration for government agencies concluded yesterday, but many will continue the celebration with a day-off today, Labor Day, which coincides with the last day of Public Service Recognition Week.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero hopes that people will reflect on the work government employees have done over the years. He added that "the standards of public service need to be raised."

"We need to raise those standards, no matter what you do—whether you clean the roads or tend to our tourists. Let us keep having a high standard of public service."

This, he said, is the most the government can do for its people.

"The people deserve that level of excellence and service. Congratulations and thank you to everyone here who continue to work tirelessly for a better Commonwealth," he added.

Sablan wants CUC to collect central govt's arrears ASAP

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair David Sablan Jr. wants the public utilities corporation to start collecting on the CNMI central government's arrears immediately.

The CNMI government, not including the Public School System and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., owes CUC a total of $2 million.

According to the latest information obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI's central government already has $1.3 million available and still needs $700,000 more.

Sablan, who also talked about PSS' and CHC's arrears, brought up the central government's past dues as well.

According to CUC legal counsel James Sirok, CUC can do what they want to do now and that they can even disconnect the government's electricity already.

Sablan told Sirok that it would be better to have a discussion with Gov. Eloy S. Inos first rather than disconnecting the central government immediately.

Sirok did note that not including past arrears, the central government is up to date on its monthly payments.

Sirok told Sablan that there was a $31,000 shortfall in the May billing of this year for the central government. The overall billing for May was $484,000.

"They are trying to reduce their billings," Sirok said.

Last payment for June was $462,000, which went down, according to CUC's acting chief financial officer Joanne Aparisio.

Sirok said that they have notified the central government's legal counsel and was told that as long as the payment equaled the billing and it didn't include the past arrears it was okay.

"We need to start collecting or we might be back in court for a government lawsuit," Sablan said.

CHC says it is closely monitoring Ebola incidents around the globe

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the most virulent diseases in the world is in the radar of the islands' lone hospital.

According to Warren Villagomez, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is making sure that all surveillance activities and monitoring are done on all critical access points and sentinel sites everyday in the CNMI with regards to the Ebola virus.

"These updates and protocol are being sent out to local state and federal partners twice a week and we are in close communications with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Quarantine Office in Hawaii for any support," CHCC said in a statement.

"Also CDC had opened its emergency operation center headquarters in Atlanta 24/7 since July 2014 to accommodate response efforts dealing with this public threat," CHCC added.

CHCC wants the community to know that they are addressing the issue.

Symptoms for Ebola include fever that is greater than 38.6 Celsius or 101.5 Fahrenheit, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal (stomach) pain, and lack of appetite.

The symptoms may appear anywhere from two to 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus, although eight to 10 days is the most common.

"Some who become sick with Ebola are able to recover. We do not fully understand why. However, patients who die usually have not developed a significant immune response to the virus at the time of death," CHCC said.

According to the World Health Organizations, in past outbreaks, up to 90 percent of humans who contract the virus have died. The current outbreak in West Africa has a 47-percent survival rate.

CHCC said that barrier nursing techniques against the Ebola virus include wearing protective clothing such as mask, gloves, gowns and goggles, using infection-control measures, and isolating patients with Ebola from contact with unprotected persons.

"The aim of these techniques is to avoid contact with the blood or secretions of an infected patient. If a patient with Ebola dies, direct contact with the body of the deceased patient should be avoided," CHCC said.

CHCC wants the public to be cautious in traveling and practice good hygiene, avoid contact with blood and body fluids, avoid handling items that may have been in contact with an infected person's blood or bodily fluids, avoid funeral or burial rituals where handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola is required, avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals, avoid hospitals where Ebola patients are being treated, and after returning, monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop symptoms of Ebola.

"In addition to CDC, we are also monitoring guidelines and advisories from World Health Organizations. We want to assure the public that our surveillance team is monitoring this daily," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said.

Happy Labor Day!
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And people should eat and drink
and enjoy the fruits of their labor,
for these are gifts from God.
Ecclesiastes 3:13
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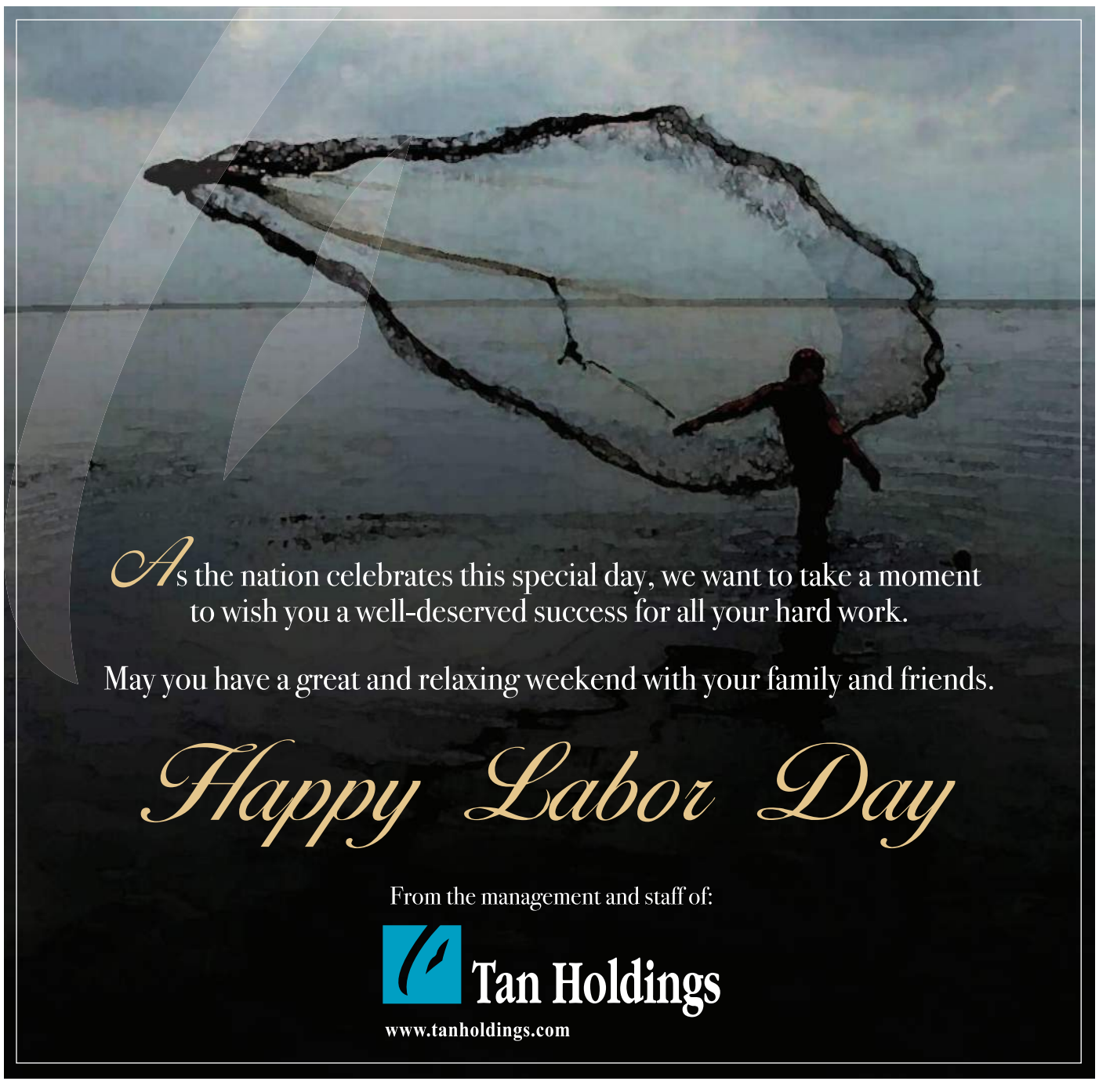

As the nation celebrates this special day, we want to take a moment
to wish you a well-deserved success for all your hard work.
May you have a great and relaxing weekend with your family and friends.
Happy Labor Day
From the management and staff of:
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com

Six students finish summer training program at Fiesta

Tan Holdings executives and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan officials pose with the six student trainees after the awarding of certificates of completion last Thursday at the resort. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Under the direction of Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, Fiesta Resort and Spa ran a summer trainee program under its HR office for several young students who were awarded their certificates of completion at a special lunch last Thursday.

The six trainees were Djaymarch Ong, Norial Laserna, Ronna Arvel A. Awit, his older brother Riggz Ranier A. Awit, Patricia Santiago, and John Taisacan.

The trainees were placed in different departments, each working five hours during a day. Ong trained under food and beverage, Laserna and Ronn Awit in housekeeping, Riggz Awit in the front office department, Santiago in hotel reservations, and Taisacan in human resources.

Lucy Guo, guest relation manager and one of the supervisors for the trainees, described Santiago as a "curious" trainee who was keen on "learning a lot" under the program.

Riggz Awit cited his "tired legs" as a bellhop as one of the surprising challenges he surmounted during his training.

Ong described his training experience of about two months as a "good learning experience."

According to Fiesta's HR office, the hotel takes seriously its social and corporate responsibility to train local workers.

The six students were their initial batch of trainees. They are hoping to do the same with other youth next summer, but aim to start two months earlier for a wider coverage in scouting out schools for trainees as their goal is to train qualified, skilled, and future full-time workers in the hotel industry.

Tan pioneered this summer student trainee program for Tan Holdings as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility.

PSS: CUC should initiate AG request to interpret PL 18-14

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants an interpretation of a recent law that changed the Public School System's water and wastewater rates from government to commercial, it should be the one to request the Office of the Attorney General and not PSS.

This was Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero's answer to CUC after the utilities agency made comments to the *Saipan Tribune* that it could not move forward without the OAG's interpretation of Public Law 18-14.

Guerrero

"It is not [PSS'] role and responsibility" to seek an interpretation of the law. He said if CUC has an "issue [with the law] then they should be the ones who initiate the process" to request an interpretation by the AG's office or through a ruling by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

If PSS were not to agree with the AG's opinion, then that is when PSS would request for certification, according to Guerrero.

Essentially, he said, "We are just obeying the law."

Under Public Law 18-14—enacted last September—CUC is mandated to change public school's water and wastewater rates from government to commercial.

As reported earlier, this in effect lowered PSS water costs by 98.4 percent and its wastewater costs by 95.6 percent.

Earlier, CUC chair Dave Sablan Jr. cited a need for the OAG's opinion if PSS is correctly interpreting the law.

"We need to see our attorney general's opinion that [PSS is] correctly interpreting the law since September of last year or they need to present their case to the CPUC in order to get a ruling," he said.

In a BOE meeting last week, PSS finance and budget director Derek Sasamoto indicated some of the effects of the law on water usage, as he stressed that there were probable water leaks in Marianas High School, Hopwood Junior High School, and Tanapag Elementary School.

"If it wasn't for Public Law 18-19, these water charges [from the leaks] would be multiplied almost tenfold, so we would [have] hundreds of thousands [in charges] rather than tens of thousands," he said.

To date, PSS' past due balance for CUC sits at $7.8 million, with $6.38 million representing the principal amount for water, electrical, and wastewater services. PSS has $807,558 in late charges, which continues to accrue at 1 percent per month.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-005

6-IN DIP WATERLINE ABANDONMENT FOR SAN VICENTE AREA EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the abandonment and installation of waterlines in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project consists, in general, of abandonment by cut and cap of existing six (6) inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) water main along Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Rd and the reconnection of any existing service laterals onto near or adjacent service mains. It also includes the installation of a new four (4) inch PVC waterline complete with new flush hydrant, all necessary valves, fittings, service connections, and water meter reconnections, as well as asphalt paving restoration, traffic control, soil erosion control, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-14-005, 6-in DIP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Area Extension Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to James Benavente, Junior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address james.benavente@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0148] **SUMMONS (for Publication)**

TO: RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED August 15, 2014
/s/ CLERK OF COURT
Third Publication

Name: Dora Ann Fegurgur Topasna
POB 502375, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: 670-288-2874

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: A.M.T.T. Minor Child By: Dora Ann Fegurgur Topasna Petitioner) FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 14-0368) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 22, 2014 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th date of August, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MVA: 2,000-room integrated resort can bring $1.8B windfall for CNMI

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the tourism industry growing once again, the dearth of rooms have always been the issue especially during peak seasons when tourists come 4to the CNMI in droves.

The Marianas Visitors Authority says that the 2,000-hotel room integrated resort by Best Sunshine could have a $1.8 billion economic impact to the CNMI if the hotel rooms are fully booked.

"This will almost double the current number of rooms we have in the CNMI," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said.

MVA projects that the CNMI will have to increase its number of visitors by approximately 451,000 in order to fill up all the additional rooms.

Over the past decade, the CNMI has seen a 13-percent overall decline in the number of operating hotel rooms. Closures have occurred primarily since 2006 due to the drop in Japan air service and rising costs of doing business.

The largest losses were on Saipan, which saw the closure of two hotels, the 114-room Plumeria Resort in 2009 and the 313-room Palms Resort in 2010, according to MVA.

The integrated resort won't only add to the additional rooms but introduce key sources of the planned hotel to attract visitors that will benefit the CNMI in other areas.

As part of MVA's master plan for 2012 to 2016, casino lies in the "niche markets" which will help increase arrivals and expenditures by attracting special visitors. The integrated resort and casino adds casino and meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions or MICE market.

The MICE market provides some business to the CNMI hotels that have banquet facilities and is driven by private investment of the hotels that have facilities and do their own overseas marketing.

Based on MVA's 2011 exit survey, visitors of different nationalities stated that they would like to see more nightlife and new attractions on the islands.

"The opening of casinos on Saipan would provide some additional activity to help fulfill this need," MVA stated.

MVA, however, stated that casinos did not rank among the Top 10 activities that exiting visitors would like to see more of on the islands,.

"This was most likely due to the fact that there was only one operating casino on the islands at the time of the survey and it was located on Tinian, which received only a fraction of the total visitors," MVA stated.

MVA's 2012 to 2016 data showed that most visitors to the casino on Tinian were Chinese tourists due to the targeted marketing and tour packages.

"As the proposal [2,000 hotel room], this resort will have much to offer our visitors beyond the casino," Tenorio said.

House opposes expanding marine monuments, military use of Pagan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Heeding committee recommendation, the House of Representatives adopted Thursday a resolution requesting Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increased military activities in the Northern Islands."

The House also adopted a resolution asking President Barack Obama not to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, which the governor earlier said is "the first step in expanding other marine national monuments in the western Pacific" such as the ones in the CNMI's own backyard, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

By a vote of 14-1, the House adopted at 2:49pm Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero's House Joint Resolution 18-14 to oppose any and all military plans for Pagan and other Northern Islands, among other things.

Only Rep. Ray Tebuteb voted "no." Five House members were absent.

Tebuteb later told *Saipan Tribune* that that CNMI should be open to dialogues rather than permanently shutting its doors to the military.

During the afternoon session, Tebuteb officially withdrew his name as co-sponsor of the joint resolution for the same reason.

The House also adopted Rep. Richard Seman's HJR 18-19, asking Obama to withdraw the proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, which is south and west of Hawaii, protecting areas around Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Howland Island, Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, and Wake Island.

Like the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument was also established by President Bush in 2009.

During its almost three-hour session Thursday afternoon, the House adopted three resolutions, passed eight bills, and rejected one, which is the fiscal year 2015 budget measure that the Senate amended and sent it to conference.

'Some FAS citizens in NMI must register with Selective Service'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kilili

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said 18- to 25-year-old male citizens of Freely Associated States living in the CNMI are required to register with the Selective Service System, an independent U.S. government agency that maintains information on those potentially subject to military conscription.

FAS citizens are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia or Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae.

This is based on information that Sablan's office gathered from the federal agency as a result of occasional inquiries to his office whether FAS citizens in the CNMI should register for the draft.

"The answer is yes, but the Selective Service website has been unclear on this. So, we asked for definitive guidance," Sablan said.

As a result, he said, the Selective Service System has updated its website with a better explanation.

"Habitual residence is presumed and registration is required whenever a national or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau, resides in the United States for more than one year in any status, except as a student who entered the U.S. for the purpose of full time studies as long as such person maintains that status or employee of the government of his homeland," Sablan said, quoting the federal agency.

Registration form can be accessed at http://www.sss.gov/Registration_Form.pdf.

Those ages 18 through 25 living outside the United States or its territories may also register with Selective Service System through their U.S. consulate or embassy.

Most of these individuals are required by law to have registered within 30 days of their 18th birthdays.

They must notify Selective Service within 10 days of any changes to any of the information they provided on their registration cards, like a change of address.

A 2010 U.S. Government Accountability Office report estimated the registration rate at 92 percent, with the names and addresses of over 16.2 million men on file.

Registration for Selective Service is also required for various federal programs and benefits, including student loans, job training, federal employment, and naturalization.

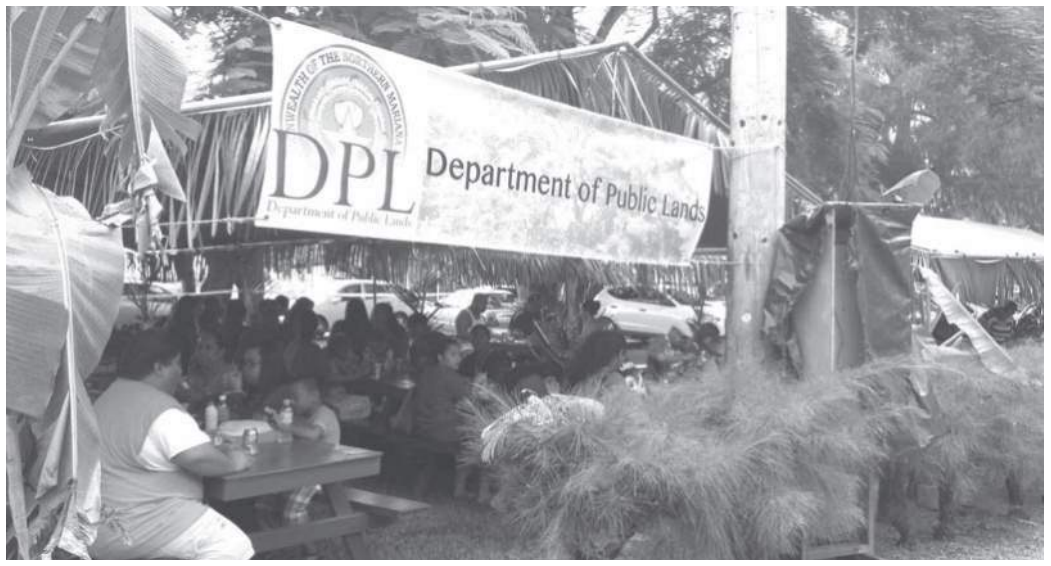
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL
Governor Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider
Håfa adai yan Tirow wáámi!
This Labor Day, we come together to celebrate the work of our hands. We come to celebrate the accomplishments we have achieved during this year, both individually and collectively in both the public and private arenas.
We honor you who keep our government running, who keep our businesses generating revenue, and who provide our citizens services that both improve and sustain the quality of life. It is our belief that the resources a person gives, though minor they may be, always help the greater of his friends in the biggest way imaginable. And for all the resources that you as a workforce contribute, you all deserve a time where you take a moment to be honored.
For all your hard work, long hours, and selfless service, we applaud all of you as you and your loved ones enjoy this well-deserved holiday. May it provide a welcome respite from the weekly grind that you go through to feed your families and help our people. For all that you do, we say…Dångkulo na Si Yu'os ma'åse', and Olomwaay reemi!
Happy Labor Day!
ELOY S. INOS
JUDE U. HOFSCHNEIDER

Labor Day 2014

PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA II

Commonwealth Health Center administration, faculty, and staff pose for a photo at their booth at the Civic Center in Susupe during Labor Day festivities yesterday.

Labor Day Committee chair Manny M. Pangelinan and Master of Ceremony LJ Castro announce the winners of the various competitions held during yesterday's event.



Department of Public Lands staff and family enjoy Sunday's festivities under their booth decorated with coconut leaves.

Members of the Judiciary enjoy yesterday's Labor Day celebration at their tent.

DCCA employees are all smiles inside their booth while watching competitions between various government agencies.

Government employees get wet and have fun during the relay race portion of yesterday's celebration.

Friends, judges, justices, and staff of the CNMI Judiciary and Federal Court pose for a photo at the 2014 Labor Day celebration.

Government employees enjoy games hosted by the Labor Day Committee during yesterday's festivities.

Employees of the CNMI Department of Finance pose for a photo with friends and family during yesterday's celebration.

Members of the CNMI Retirement fund heat up the grill in celebration of Labor Day weekend.

Northern Marianas College faculty and staff pose for a photo at their booth during the daylong Labor Day celebration in Susupe.

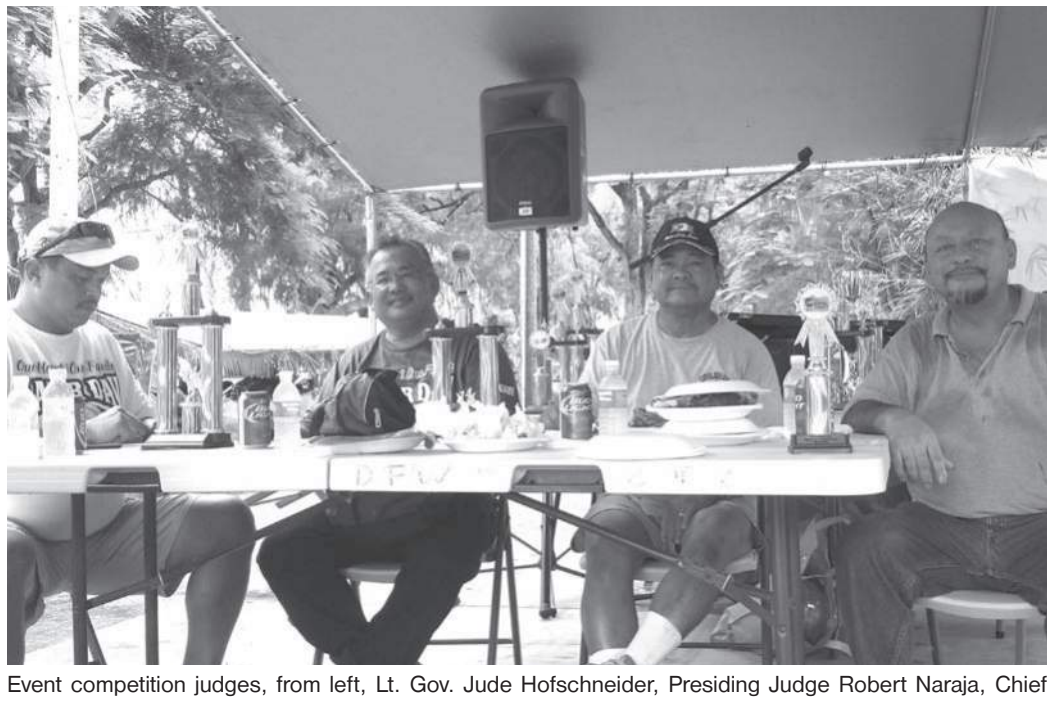
Commonwealth Ports Authority staff celebrate Labor Day while showcasing the event's theme on their shirts "One Heart, One Family, One CNMI."

Literacy Program
e Northern Marianas Humanities Council
ith the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and
he Public School System

Selena Forman, a long-time Joeten-Kiyu Public Library employee, smiles with her son during the Labor Day Celebration yesterday.

Department of Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan and staff pose for the *Saipan Tribune* while enjoying each others company during yesterday's Labor Day celebration.

Members of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality gather for a group photo at the Labor Day festivity grounds.



Event competition judges, from left, Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Later school starts would have many consequences

For years, Americans have seen proposals come and go on starting classes later for students in high schools and middle schools.

In 1999, the California Legislature had a bill to delay school start times; it didn't pass. In 2005, Pittsburgh school officials floated the idea of beginning classes later at some high schools; the plan went nowhere. On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics called for an 8:30 a.m. or later start for the nation's middle schools and high schools, saying adolescents need 8-1/?2 to 9-1/?2 hours of sleep a night.

In theory, delaying the typical 7 a.m. start of school for teenagers is a good idea. Fewer students would show up bleary-eyed and more might perform better academically.

But there's a reason U.S. schools have been unable to change: it's impractical. Starting school later means ending school later, which would have a big impact on what students can do afterward, what parents can expect of their teens and perhaps what school districts pay for transportation.

While the pediatricians say teens need to get more sleep later, other researchers have highlighted the importance of extracurricular activities after school and the need for student involvement outside the classroom. That would be difficult for students to manage if classes ended 90 minutes later.

Student athletes would have to practice later into the evening and away games on school nights would be more difficult to manage. Working students might have a difficult time finding or holding jobs after school, and teens who babysit young children after school—or are needed by their parents to care for younger siblings—could be less available.

Catching a bus at 5:45 a.m. so that a student can be in homeroom at 7:10 may not be ideal, but it's hard to see how secondary schools can adopt later start times in the face of these consequences. If more adolescents were early to bed and early to rise, those early birds would still get the worm.

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MY PARENTS SAY I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH FOR VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES...
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF ASKING IF THEY'LL TAKE YOU TO A SHOOTING RANGE TO FIRE AN UZI?
KOTERBA
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

Bao Bao and Obama's Free Rider

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Bao Bao (literally "baby") panda at the National Zoo gets attention as the native to forests of western China entertain the crowds. I saw the native environment of the bearcat on a trek to the Garze Autonomous Region of Sichuan a year ago. I aborted when the rains poured on mountain roads hand chiseled on ravined mountain cliffs from raging waters eons before, making travel more than what I bargained for. After seeing the mammals in a Chengdu research station, I took the sweltering heat of the Sichuan plains in Chongqing, upstream from the Three Gorges Dam.

The panda is an endangered specie, cuddly in its behavior before crowds but having encountered the creature at very close quarters, I am not sure I want to be in the same pen with it in spite of its reputed disarming demeanor, even if I do not exactly taste like bamboo! (A *non-sequitur* aside: a Shanghai nurse called me *bao bao* once!)

For its appealing behavior, the panda, like other endangered species in Mother Nature's kingdom, rides freely on the beneficence of parks and recreation budgets, and allocations from international preserves and research stations. Undisturbed and left to its own devices, the panda will survive. Unhappily, there is no such secluded place in the planet anymore.

It is in that context that I received Obama's joking reference to China as a free rider when interviewed by *New York Times*' Paul Klugman. Though Obama's joke, explained lightly as occasioned by a glance to his office in-tray piling up crisis after another, asking, "Why can't China handle some of these things?" his use of the free rider image might be a little overextended metaphor.

A historical sweep of geocentric proclivities: the Ptolemaic cosmology had the Earth at the center of the universe before Copernicus suggested otherwise. All roads led to Rome for the Caesars until Constantine moved the Imperium to Byzantium. The Prophet's followers occupied Mecca before the Ottomans revived Constantine's hangout and called it Istanbul, turning cathedrals into mosques. Pope Alexander VI kept the Roman Church in the game, granting Portugal permission to own the East, and Spain, the West.

In the East, the eunuch Zhongguo navigator Zhanghe launched an armada that dwarfed anything Columbus and Magellan later knew, but the Ming Dynasty turned inward and rubbed out the admiral's gains out of official record (they were burned), strengthened the social glue in the lands between the two rivers (the Huanghe and the Yangtze), and connected the walls in its northern borders so the barbarians would be kept at bay. It did not but that didn't stop the rule of the Middle Kingdom. It acted as the center of civilization under the mandate of heaven, expecting obeisance from the rest of the world, rudely violated by the Europeans, the U.S.' westward ho, and Japan's Meiji mid-1800s.

The wisdom of Kung Fu Tzu held an informal hegemony among the Hans, extended to *Rìběn* (Japan), *Goryo* (Korea), *Yuenan* (Vietnam) that went politically independent while the Southern Han, Zang, Uighur, Mongols, and Manchus stayed within the Kingdom, the latter two from north of the Great Wall getting assimilated rather than imposing "foreign" ways.

The British Empire discovered the power of the internal combustion engine and the politics of oil was birthed, with the industrial Ruhr and modernizing Riben/Nippon in Manchukuo competing for the privilege of imperial prominence, resulting in two devastating world wars with the Americans, their demonstrated nuclear military might over Hiroshima/Nagasaki, eventually becoming the guardians to the spigot.

A new world beyond oil emerged out of the blue (the Russians sent a Sputnik and a dog beyond the biosphere) when JFK's determination to send a man to the moon was accomplished within a decade. The new Earth came dramatically to me in the earthrise picture of 1968 when my sense of social fealty and personal integrity was formed, and I chose to be on all counts earthbound, not beholden to loyalty to a single nation, race, or religion.

Weekend New Year 2014 I spent in Hong Kong where the Occupy Central gathered to disrupt Victoria Island's center, not unlike their well-off cousins in the land of Siam. HK's anti-Occupy has since taken to the streets, and Thailand just started the command and control of the generals. Ferguson MO erupted when a young black man was shot to death by a white cop, for disrespectfully speaking out-of-bounds.

The metaphor I grew up in was to be a "son of God" on behalf of all in servanthood as shown by Jesus the Nazarene. U.S. exceptionalism uses the simile in a privileged position, "a light on a hill," to regulate and rule it over others.

There is no escape from the inevitability of life's interrelatedness to life. Albert Einstein noticed that the fall of a leaf reverberates across the universe. The *bao bao* pandas are no free riders. They entertain for their meals!

China, likewise, works hard for its fried noodles. *Gambei!*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

On Google and the curse of the permanent record

By EDWARD WASSERMAN
McClatchy Newspapers

Edward Wasserman is dean of the University of California-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. He wrote this for McClatchy Newspapers. His website is www.edwardwasserman.com.

Once, we came of age under the shadow of something called a Permanent Record. Nobody ever actually saw one, but as youngsters we understood we had to keep our own clean, since stains could do lasting damage.

Plainly, the idea of an authoritative, ineradicable ledger on individual behavior is a powerful one. Widespread too. You see it in everything from the divine Book of Life to the gift list kept by Santa, who knows if you've been bad or good.

That permanent record meant somebody was paying attention, which was good, but it was also a dark and oppressive background presence, since it enabled even trivial sins to curse our futures.

Good thing it was largely mythic. Back then, actual record-keeping was spotty, and technology had zero ability to corral the manifold tracks that we each left into some all-knowing compendium.

No longer. Welcome to the digital age. Its mighty search engines have spawned a virtual permanent record for millions of individuals. It's updated constantly, lasts forever, and is in full-time public view.

What gets in it and with what prominence—those are mysteries, depending on the alchemy of particular search engines. Generally, they suck up most anything about someone that was published or resides in Internet-accessible public records. (The search engines don't scour social media like Twitter and Facebook, yet.)

That means the fraternity house dustup that led to a sleepover in jail, or the rude remark at a political rally, or any of a thousand missteps and embarrassments that in a pre-modern age would have faded into oblivion—debris from what Justice John Paul Stevens called the "practical obscurity" we used to inhabit—remain vivid, alive and, potentially, toxic.

Hence the importance of last month's ruling by Europe's highest court. It authorizes people to demand that links to material that threatens their privacy be scrubbed from search results.

The case involved Google, the California-based colossus that handles roughly 90 percent of Europe's Internet searches. It was brought by a Spaniard who challenged a link to a 1998 item in a Catalan newspaper about the auction of his home, repossessed to repay debts he owed. He reasoned that the matter had been resolved ages ago and there was no reason people who Googled his name now should learn about it.

The European Court of Justice agreed, and ruled that if an individual complains, a search engine should investigate. If it determines the link is to information that is "inadequate, irrelevant or no longer relevant or excessive," it should delete the listing from the search results.

Matters of public significance were excluded. The ruling wouldn't apply "if it appeared, for particular reasons, such as the role played by the data subject in public life, that the interference with his fundamental rights (privacy) is justified by the preponderant interest of the general public in … the information in question."

Nor did the judgment question publishing the offending material in the first place: It applied only to "data controllers," not to news media—and links to the material might still be available through Google, just not when you're searching under the individual's name.

Nevertheless, the ruling is being called a landmark, and much of the commentary focuses on the "right to be forgotten," which underlies legal protections in such countries as France, Italy and Britain. The idea is that at some point misdeeds—even criminal behavior—become part of one's personal past and shouldn't be exposed publicly without good reason.

That isn't merely a concession to individual feelings; it reflects a cultural preference for letting people move on with their lives, a belief that penitent wrongdoers shouldn't have red letters emblazoned on their foreheads. That's very different from the U.S. affection for punishment in perpetuity.

In the first four days after the judgment was issued, 12,000 Europeans flooded Google with demands.

Still, the judgment is troubling: It erects a barrier to truthful information, which is abhorrent to U.S. tradition. It also reflects a bizarre accommodation: Nasty items remain intact in cyberspace; they're just rendered irretrievable. The Internet becomes like the universal library in Jorge Luis Borges' fable, with infinite books and no way to find them—in effect, senile.

It also, as a British parliamentarian put it, "forces Internet search engines to police what should and shouldn't be wiped from public view without any clear criteria—let alone ones determined by democratically elected lawmakers."

Besides, is forced ignorance the proper response to the specter of the toxic Permanent Record? Isn't the problem not one of what people know, but what they make of it? Isn't the solution not forgetting, but forgiving?

I sympathize with people whose pasts are rummaged for worldwide gaze by search machines run by algorithms that even their creators can't explain, let alone justify.

But deliberate concealment is a disturbing response. Perhaps the answer lies in making sure people can respond prominently to prejudicial postings. And in the longer term, the challenge is to nurture an online culture with qualities of clemency and compassion that are as mature and far-reaching as the vast awareness the Internet enables.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethics and morality should be taught in public classrooms

What is the policy of our public school system regarding education and teaching of ethics and morality in the classroom?

A review of the mission statement and vision statement of PSS does not indicate or even mention a thing about ethics and morality as core subjects in its curricula. Surprising and unexplained but the Commissioner of Education's Initiative section is empty.

Checking the CNMI Constitution for guidance on these subjects is even more problematic because it only reveals in one sentence that is couched in a very uncertain, loose, and ambiguous term and standard. Article 15 of the CNMI Constitution states in part, "The educational system shall also provide support and guidance for students in assessing areas of interest and ability, in clarifying values and goals, and in providing students with clear and accurate information so they may gain the most from their education experience." As you can see, only a brief mention about what may be a core policy on ethics and morality education and teaching in our educational system that our Constitution mandates. Does this mean that our educational system is a value-less teaching and educational institution? Is this the core rationale why PSS does not account for ethics and morality teaching as an important, serious, and special aspect of human existence and necessary skills and indoctrination for all students entering and leaving the school system?

Somewhere along the line, values like morality, ethics, temperance, truth, lawfulness, etc., have come to be viewed as vestiges of the Judeo-Christian teachings or of religious origin and thus unacceptable in today's educational environment. Is this that basic reason why PSS shy away from giving this issue high priority as important learning and education for our students because of potential legal hurdle this may involve?

Preparing children to take and own responsibility for their actions is a compelling community interest and should be accepted as good for society or civilization as a whole. Hence, what is wrong with teaching and education of children so that they know and choose between good or bad, truth or deceit, legal or illegal, honesty or lie, and desirable or undesirable social behavior of sort? As a community, are we intimidated by the vociferous emphasis on the separation of church and state? To avoid problems, even possible legal action, PSS only acknowledges priority attention to teaching academic subjects without touching on the values that are basic to civilization.

Here the problem is that those that appear protesting the lack of moral and ethics teaching in our public school system is viewed and ridiculed into insignificance or classed as out of step with present-day reality. Parents of my generation's greatest aim in setting up schools was to give their children a better life than they had, better able to read and write and speak than they were and more prepared to change the world. Now, it seems we have given up on changing the world by making better people and gone to making people comfortable in the world they have because "that's the way life is." Is that what we want it to remain?

Today, education seems to be a popular subject in this year's election as candidates list this as an important issue. "Am for education," "education is important," "without education our society suffers," "each child deserves good and responsible education" are clichés that abound in pamphlets and talking points. I could not find one person in the slew of candidates that mentions a thing about values, ethics and morality teaching for our children. Are we all agreeing that teaching of values, ethics and morality in our public school system does not resonate well for our own wellbeing and happy future as a society?

What is wrong requiring a policy for our public school system that says: "It shall be the policy of the public school system to teach students the principles of morality, ethics truth, justice, temperance, humanity and patriotism; to teach them to avoid idleness, profanity and falsehood; to instruct them in the principles of free government and to train them in the true comprehension of the rights, duty and dignity of American citizenship." This may be tall order for our teachers, but it is in no way an extreme mandate coming from extremist, fundamentalist, rationalist, conservatives, or over-jealous parents intent to limit and exclude the rights of others.

Teaching and education of moral values and ethics for all children in our public school system is an important social undertaking. Changing the mindset of the CNMI people should take front center attention within PSS itself and our elected representatives in both the legislative and executive branches of our government. It will require much deliberations before all are settled in unified level playing field, making the blueprint for our public education system. However, this also aims at curing ills of civil disorders and dysfunctions we face today in our communities. If we provide the blueprint of the basic public policy we approve and trust, moving forward would require PSS to follow and implement by spearheading and taking the lead on this. The desirable end results is toward meeting the public interest, but only if stakeholders and PSS are unified and play the same music on this issue.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Question for Judge Govendo

Why did you let Buckingham get away with what he did?

Antonio Aldan
Kagman, Saipan

Calling on the responsible agencies

Environmental protection and prevention programs are badly needed here on Tinian.

A lot of people are disposing of batteries, computers, and others broken stuff that needed proper disposal.

EPA and schools need to work together to apply this in the curriculum as it is important to prevent toxic materials from contaminating the underground water that we drink.

They also need to be educated on how these contaminants can affects our environment in the future.

Another health issues is the betel nut chewers spitting everywhere on the ground and God knows how long before these bacteria reach the groundwater that we drink and how these bacteria will reach us, transported by insects or others.

Another is the importance of reading the labels of chemicals that we use daily in our home such as mosquito coils, insects sprays, and so on that can cause environmental damage.

The other issue is the secondhand smoker. There is a need to educate people about the harmful effects of secondhand smoking for there are employees working in places where smoking is allowed and they harm not only their fellow employees but also customers. Some of these customers have health issues.

There may be more, but the is the most common practices that I've seen. So if there is anyone out there reading this, please help me get this to the proper agencies.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

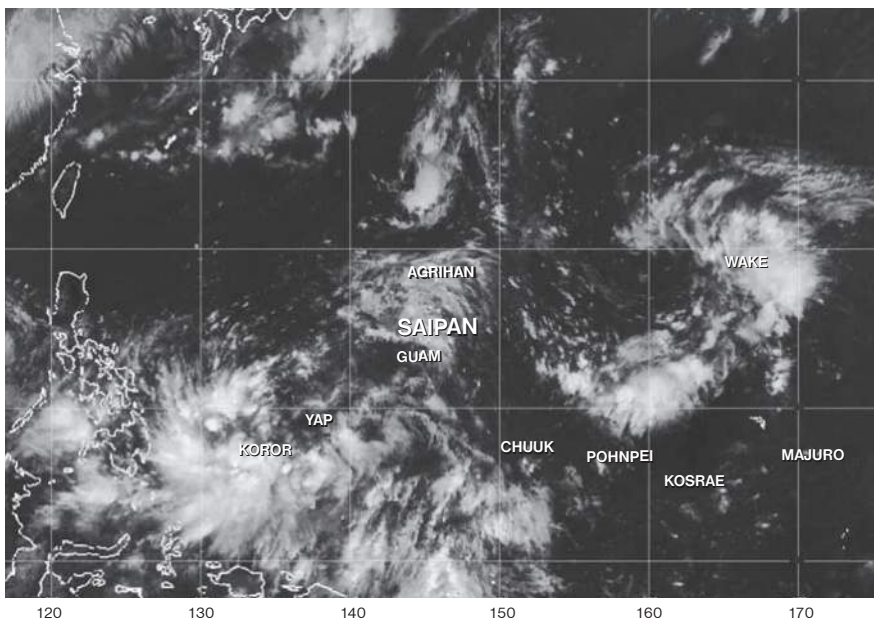
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Rain	▲57	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
New York	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼72
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼70
Paris	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼67
Rome	Rain	▲84	▼64
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼60
Seoul	Sunny	▲84	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲80	▼70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough runs eastward from near 10N130E through a broad circulation centered east of Koror near 7N135E to end west of Pohnpei near 7N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms cover a large area south of a line from 11N130E to 10N145E to 5N153E. This area includes the Republic of Palau, Yap state and Western Chuuk state. A surface trough extends northeastward from 15N140E to end at 23N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the CNMI in an area bounded by a line from 16N140E to 25N146E to 15N148E back to 16N140E. A mid to upper-level low is centered west of Wake Island near 20N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found mainly south and east of the center. This area lies north of Pohnpei and Kwajalein but over Wake within 300 miles of a line from 12N160E to 22N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
1:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:13 AM	11:00 PM
Tuesday	12:07 PM	11:51 PM
Wednesday	1:03 PM	
Thursday	2:00 PM	12:46 AM
Friday	2:56 PM	1:45 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

In service of others

By JUAN N. BABAUTA and JUAN S. TORRES
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Next year in 2015 marks 37 years since the people of the Commonwealth elected their first CNMI governor and lieutenant governor, the Honorable Dr. Carlos S. Camacho and the Honorable Lt. Governor Francisco C. Ada. Next year also marks the first inauguration of members of the first House of Representatives and Senate in the Commonwealth Legislature. Today this month, however, just as we have done for the last 36 years, we pause and salute those people in service of others in government and in business, our local workforce who have unselfishly dedicated their lives 365 days each year for the last 36 years since the CNMI becoming a United States Commonwealth, indeed, the bedrock of American political economy overseas.

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Covenant with the United States, an agreement which the people in the CNMI have since 1976 accepted the American principles of democracy in a commonwealth relationship, a relationship that we are proud of and one which gives us the reason to proudly fly the CNMI and the U.S. flags 365 days a year for the last 36 years too. No doubt progress in local self-government and the local economy (political economy) have evolved over these periods that have seen major changes in governance, health and safety, and even the economy. In the last several years, however, the combined and cumulative progress, achievement and success made have been taken aback under the present situation, a situation that pegged the CNMI in a no better position than during the heyday of the Trust Territory period.

This situation is simply unacceptable. We must turn things around and away from status quo in the present situation and move swiftly forward in problem solving based on cutting edge and innovative approaches and 21st century solutions that restore the quality of life we are proud of as stewards of our destiny.

No doubt every one vying this year for the office of governor and lieutenant governor and other elective positions in government have in one way or another expressed strong desires to help improve our local economy, make our local and central governance more efficient and effective, and offer unique ideas to improve the health and safety of others in our community.

For Juan S. Torres and I, today, we join our worthy competitors and others in saying "Thank You" to our workforce in government and in business. At the same time, we also are obliged today to invite everyone in service of others to critically examine our ideas (www.babautatorres2014.com) for building sustainable communities in the Commonwealth, which in a nutshell are undergirded in principles consistent with:

- strengthening the fiscal sustainability of the CNMI economy;
- balancing the protection and enhancement of our precious natural resources toward sustainability;
- making preventative and affordable health care primary and advocating food-to-table production and delivery system for buy fresh local produce and products;
- infusing technology and innovation into our workforce training infrastructure for versatile learning and training approaches and opportunities; and
- empowering local governance in local communities that facilitates public-private partnership.

Like probably most, we are keenly aware of and understand the compelling need to increase opportunities for local employment and local wealth creations. Our moving forward vision addresses:

- the pain and suffering by the retirees over the uncertainty of their hard-earned local pension that was worsened by unilateral actions to take away 25 percent of the pension benefits;

the skyrocketing CUC (utilities) expenses;

- the unaffordable health care services and insurance protection;
- the lack of air service and ocean freight service to Rota;
- the lack of air service to Pagan and the Northern Islands;

the poor ocean freight service to Tinian;

- the increased drug usage and crime in our communities; and
- the list goes on and on.

To facilitate and make progress in our local economy and other areas in our community in service of others, Juan S. Torres and I remain resolved and focused on improving our local economy; making our local and central governance more efficient and effective; and strengthening the health and safety of others in our community. We do not simply invite investors to invest in the Commonwealth. We want to provide investors a conducive environment that ensures confidence in the integrity and fairness of our government and those who dispense services to others. That confidence has been undermined by recent actions taken in the manner, for instance, in which two Saipan casino bills were drafted, introduced, voted on, and signed into law. The people want to know what is going on in their government. They want to know how their government is conducting business outside of full public view. Yes, providing service to others requires the beneficiaries of services to know how their government, for instance, is spending the peoples' tax dollars. People are simply fed up with backroom kitchen deals and reckless deals that derail a sense of certainty and predictability and ultimately stability in government service, policy, and procedure (e.g. permitting).

In service of others also requires an open administration, an administration that places good faith, trust, and confidence in the people. This kind of administration respects the people's right to know what their government is doing and how their government is accomplishing the people's business. Too many layers of centralized bureaucracy are often counterproductive, stifles growth and delays progress over a system of governance that is geared and operated in a more decentralized provision and delivery of public services, a system that is timely and responsive. This organizational setup not only ensures effective and efficient administration of public services, but also goes a long way to enhancing the health and safety of our community.

» A personal reflection in celebration of Labor Day in American political economy

In service of others demands well-rounded and diverse experiences by those charged with the provision and delivery of public services to others. Juan S. Torres and I have extensive senior executive experiences in public services and in the private sector. Our collective executive experiences have provided us the insights and knowledge base that are necessary to fully understand and timely deal with the Commonwealth's multi-faceted problems. Our combined educational portfolio undergirds the manner in which we will implement, deliver, and sustain improved quality of life for others in the CNMI, not just in the short-term but more importantly for the long haul!

Issues which in service of others involve federal assistance and participation could be confidently managed through the CNMI's unique Covenant 902 process, a process both Juan S. Torres and I had participated in, thus each of us and together are fully familiar with, including the inner workings of Washington, D.C.

For instance, as a former governor and a former representative in D.C., these direct past experiences and relationships with the federal government in Washington, D.C. readily provide me the access and the know-how in successfully navigating and dealing with the myriad of federal agencies in Washington and San Francisco in service of others.

At the same time, Juan's direct experiences and relationships in local and federal government, including the local business community, readily provide our team access to and the know-how in navigating and dealing successfully with local finance institutions, local banks, and the Retirement Fund, as a former banker and former Retirement Fund administrator.

Together, our collective experiences and established relationships in government and the private sector make us formidable and complementary in service of others, one that often requires the right combination of education, experience, and fitness necessary for timely, efficient, and effective execution, and strategic delivery of sustainable services benefiting others.

In the spirit of coming together, working together and standing proud as people of the Commonwealth is the kind of inheritance that should pass on to our children and their children that they too can be proud. In service of others, we should expect nothing less than to nurture a culture of sustainability calling for bold commitment in striving to achieve certain critical targets not limited to:

- Clean energy: 70 percent clean energy—40 percent from renewable alternative and 30 percent from efficiency.
- Local food: At least double local food production—20-30 percent of food consumed is grown locally.
- Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of natural resource loss through increased watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species control and native species restoration.
- Waste reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 50 percent through source reduction, recycling and bioconversion.
- Smart sustainable communities: Increase livability and resilience in the built environment through planning and implementation at state and county levels.
- Green workforce: Increase local green jobs and education to implement these targets.

Decentralized governance that empowers local communities to engage in public-private partnerships in projects beneficial to all.

Juan S. Torres and I do not promise service of others; rather, it is our commitment in service of others based on our unflinching and unshakeable belief that each individual must be provided an opportunity to succeed that is driven by hard work, continuous learning and self-innovation, and a sincere desire to succeed!

Happy Labor Day 2014!

Ten truths about day jobs

By GINA BARRECA
THE HARTFORD COURANT

1 Never look down on somebody who holds a job and rides the bus to the end of the line. These are the people who labor their whole lives but are never rewarded with tangible success. Not every dog has its day; some simply work their tails off. My father was one of those guys: never missed a day, never missed a beat and barely made a dime. But he taught my brother and me how to get a job done. Old Italians would grab their kids and say, "The more you have in there," pointing to our heads, "the less you have to put on there," pointing to our backs. My brother and I benefited from my father's integrity, his stamina and his gratitude for having a job.

2 Most of the people actually working on Labor Day are the ones who really deserve the day off. Declared a federal holiday in 1894, it's meant to be a day of street parades illustrating the "strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" followed by food and festivities for the workers' families, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Not anymore—at least, not for folks selling groceries, serving food or manning the mall for the back-to-school rush. If you know how to run a register or deal non-violently with customers who bark "Whaddya mean, I might need a different size? I'm a 6. I've always been a 6. Get me your manager," you'll be required to show up for a double-shift.

3 Of course, some people take Labor Day quite literally: My friend Heidi gave birth to her daughter.

4 Just as every great job has a terrible hidden cost, every terrible job has a wonderful, if small or secret, payoff. My husband worked at a deli when he was in high school and although he hated standing on his feet seven hours a day cutting fatty meats (including slicing tongue, which unnerves him to this day), he was able to eat his body weight in cold cuts, rye bread and coleslaw. He was a lanky kid; he appreciated the fresh food and the conversations with the customers. The job changed his life.

5 Every job teaches you something apart from the skill you're using at work. I learned one big lesson when working inventory at Barnes and Noble when it was the world's biggest bookstore—in a real building on Fifth Avenue. This was long before online ordering: We wrote down ISBN numbers on small slips of paper and went to the warehouse to retrieve titles. It became obvious that certain old volumes had new fans every day because we were always restocking them, while some wildly hyped and well-reviewed new books never sold a copy. It was then that I learned that many slick novels had a shorter shelf life than cannoli. Let's say it changed the focus of my literary ambitions.

6 Every young person should have had a job for an extended period of time where he or she needs to show up on time, in clean clothes, wide-awake, in a convincingly cheerful mood (faking it is fine—nobody cares what your real mood is because it's not about you) and prepared to complete whatever task is assigned. This is not about being exploited; this is about learning how to separate your public life from your private life. The idea is to learn to slough off the whiny self that moans "I don't feeeeeel like doing this today."

7 You can't "Retire Before You're Thirty!" any more than you can "Age With Dignity Before You're Twenty-Two!" That's just silly talk.

8 We're told you should follow your dreams and become financially independent, as if these two were twinned. Avoid building a future based primarily on your inner-promptings without establishing your economic security first. Figure out how to make rent and pay bills: Not even with crowd sourcing will your bliss necessarily lead directly to the bank.

9 There's no "Major Investor's Day" for the same reason there's no "Men's History Month."

10 Without ever working or having worked, how can you take a break and feel whole? Here's to earning our keep.

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her www.ginabarreca.com.

19 take oath as newest US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The 19 new U.S. citizens pose for a group photo with, standing from left to right, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde, CNMI Bar president Maya Kara, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. The 19 took their oath as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony in federal court on Friday.

For public school teacher Cristina Caberos Yohannan, obtaining her U.S. citizenship is a story deserving a chapter in her book.

"It will be the next chapter of my story in my book," said Yohannan, an outstanding teacher at San Vicente Elementary School shortly after she and 18 others were sworn in as the newest U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday.

The teacher, who is from Ormoc, Philippines, said her citizenship allows her to now participate in choosing political leaders.

"I want leaders that really do their best for the people," she said.

For 57-year-old Kazuaki Nishida of Japan, he is excited to have finally obtained his citizenship.

"I like this country," said Nishida, who is currently director for sales and marketing at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Nishida stayed in the U.S. mainland for 27 years, and Guam for 11 years. He's been on Saipan for over a year now.

For Rowena Tapal Wesley, of Manila, Philippines, citizenship means good employment opportunities. Wesley, 32, said it will now be easier for her to travel and find a job.

Wesley first came to Saipan in 2005 as an administrative assistant for Asia Pacific. She is currently a travel agent at the Pacific Sky Travel Agency. She and husband, federal court jury administrator Timothy V. Wesley, have one child.

Ki Arm Ham, 74, and his wife, Young Ok Hong Ham, 68, both from South Korea, said they feel good and happy with their citizenship.

Ki Arm Ham said he first came to Saipan in 1981 then his wife followed him a year later. They opened an auto repair shop, which shut down five years ago.

Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy conducted the naturalization ceremony. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also joined in the ceremony.

CNMI Bar Association president Maya Kara served as the guest speaker of the event.

Aside from Yohannan, Nishida, Wesley, and the Ham couple, the 14 other newest citizens are Samson Torno Batara, Alma Dolores Ng Berki, Maria Theresa Magaling Camacho, Girlie Grace Tiongson Figueroa, Masaji Harada, Garmen Grace Hasselback, Jasmine Hernandez Matsumoto, Hiuyun Zhu Hocog, Reyne Niedo Justo, Consolacion Dena Masga, Emily Siobal Reyes, Gina Maligson Sasakura, Virgina Glaser Sikayun, and Taufagavao Warren.

Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde presented the new citizens, who are from the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Western Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, and China.

BILL BEZZANT

VISITING CIRCUIT JUDGES

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Chief Circuit Judge Alex A. Kozinski, Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder, and Circuit Judge Randy Smith in a group photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy and some lawyers after the 20th Annual District Conference held at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall on Saturday. Front photo from left, are Circuit Judge Schroeder, Chief Judge Manglona, Circuit Chief Judge Kozinski, and attorneys Claire Kelleher-Smith, Maya Kara, and Jane Mack. Top photo from left are attorney Daniel Garrie, Circuit Judge Smith, Circuit executive Cathy Catterson, attorney Deborah Fisher, Magistrate Judge Kennedy, and attorneys Bruce Mailman, and Colin Thompson.

Ryan Babauta arrested for allegedly not complying with supervision conditions

U.S. Marshals arrested last week Ryan T. Babauta, an ex-convict on federal probation who allegedly didn't comply with his supervision conditions again.

Babauta was served with an arrest warrant on Wednesday. His initial hearing was on Friday afternoon before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

The U.S. Probation sought anew to have Babauta's supervised release revoked after he submitted a diluted sample during a random drug test on July 14, 2014.

U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola informed the court that Babauta also failed to appear for counseling sessions on July 29, Aug. 2, Aug. 5, Aug. 6, and Aug. 7, 2014.

He said the defendant did not appear for random drug testing on Aug. 3, 2014.

Babauta also allegedly failed to follow the instructions by not submitting a monthly supervision report within the first week of August 2014 and not reporting to the U.S. Probation Office as directed.

Last January, the federal court revoked Babauta's supervised release and slapped him with a six-month prison term for using illegal drugs and violating other terms of his probation.

The federal court also ordered that after completing his prison term, Babauta would be placed on supervised release for 54 months.

Babauta was one of seven prisoners who staged a 14-hour hostage drama at the Department of Corrections in Susupe in March 2009. At the time, he was serving a prison term for involuntary manslaughter over the killing of a Bangladeshi national in Chalan Kanoa.

In August 1999, the federal court slapped Babauta with a 180-month prison sentence and five years of supervised release, for hostage taking and felon in possession of a firearm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Business

Atlantic City losing 2 casinos, 5K jobs in 3 days

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—A time few could imagine during the not-too-distant glory days of casino gambling has arrived in Atlantic City, where two casinos will close this weekend and a third will shut down in two weeks.

More than 5,000 workers will lose their jobs in an unprecedented weekend in the seaside gambling resort, leaving many feeling betrayed by a system that once promised stable, well-paying jobs.

The Showboat is closing Sunday, followed by Revel on Monday and Tuesday. Trump Plaza is next, closing Sept. 16. To the thousands who will be left behind, it still seems unreal.

"We never thought this would happen," said Chris Ireland, who has been a bartender at the Showboat since it opened. His wife works there, too, as a cocktail server. Before dinnertime Sunday, neither will have a job.

What makes it even tougher to swallow is that the Showboat—one of four Atlantic City casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment—is still turning a profit. But the company says it is closing Showboat to help reduce the total number of casinos in Atlantic City. Caesars also teamed with Tropicana Entertainment to buy the Atlantic Club last December and close it in January.

"They just want to eliminate competition," Ireland said. "Everyone's in favor of a free market until it doesn't exactly work for them."

AP

This Wednesday July 23, 2014 photograph shows casinos along the Atlantic City, N.J. boardwalk, from left, the Trump Taj Mahal Casino, with its Chairman Tower, the Showboat Casino Hotel, and the Revel Casino Hotel.

Yet many analysts and casino executives say the painful contraction now shrinking Atlantic City's casino market is exactly what the city needs to survive. Since 2006, Atlantic City's casino revenue has fallen from $5.2 billion to $2.86 billion last year, and it will fall further this year. Atlantic City will end the year with eight casinos after beginning the year with 12.

New casinos popping up in an already saturated Northeastern U.S. gambling market aren't expanding the overall pie but are slicing it into ever-smaller pieces. Fewer casinos could mean better financial performance for the survivors.

Resorts Casino Hotel, which was on the verge of closing a few years ago, completed a remarkable turnaround in the second quarter of this year, swinging from a $1.3 million loss last year to a $1.9 million profit this year.

"I truly believe that eight remaining casinos can all do very well when the gambling market is right-sized," said Resorts president Mark Giannantonio.

That may be true, but it is little comfort to workers who are losing their jobs. By the time Trump Plaza shuts down in two weeks, nearly 8,000 jobs—or a quarter of Atlantic City's casino workforce—will be unemployed. A mass unemployment filing due to begin Wednesday is so large it has been booked into the city's convention center.

When casino gambling was approved by New Jersey voters in 1976, it was billed as a way to revitalize Atlantic City and provide stable, lasting jobs. The first casino, Resorts, opened in 1978, kicking off three decades of soaring revenue and employment.

But the Great Recession hit just as new casinos were popping up in neighboring Pennsylvania and New York, cutting deeply into Atlantic City's customer base.

"There was a promise when casinos came in here that these would be good, viable jobs, something you could raise your family on and have a decent life with," said Paul Smith, a cook at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort. "I feel so bad for all these people losing their jobs. It wasn't supposed to be like this."

Mayor Don Guardian says his city is remaking itself as a more multifaceted destination, where gambling is only part of the allure. But he acknowledges the pain this weekend will bring.

Here's what happens when a casino closes down

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—When a casino shuts down, making an announcement over the loudspeaker and herding gamblers off the casino floor is only the beginning. Here's a look at what takes place behind the scenes:

■ Secure the money and the chips. Casino security, supervised by inspectors from the state Division of Gaming Enforcement and backed by state police, immediately secure the money and gambling chips from each table game and slot machine. Supervisors and dealers count the chips, total up the money and have it wheeled away to the cash counting rooms.

■ Get the people out. While security will allow a few moments for customers to take a last look around, the goal is to clear the casino floor as quickly as possible, keeping a close eye on departing guests to ensure they don't help themselves to souvenirs on the way out. That, however, did not work so well when the Atlantic Club closed Jan. 13, and guests ripped out indoor landscaping to take with them; one elderly couple even hauled away a large potted tree.

■ Food and booze. By the time the casino closes down, much of the food and alcohol will have been removed from the premises already. Both Showboat and Revel started this process in the days before they shut down. Sealed alcohol can be kept and resold; open bottles must be tossed.

■ Pay the man (or lady). Casinos may keep their teller windows open for a few hours to let patrons cash out their winnings. Revel will allow customers into the casino (escorted by security) until Sept. 15 to cash in chips.

■ Lock it up. The premises are locked and access is restricted to essential personnel or workmen who might need to remove supplies or gambling equipment. Revel will continue to host employees working to attract a post-shutdown buyer, and there will be plenty of security on-site.

A history of casino revenue, jobs in Atlantic City

Here is a look at how gambling revenue and employment have changed since casinos launched in Atlantic City in 1978:

■ May 26, 1978: Resorts Atlantic City opens.
Casino revenue: $134 million
Casino employment: 3,300

■ June 26, 1979: Caesars Atlantic City opens.

■ Dec. 29, 1979: Bally's Atlantic City opens.
Casino revenue: $325 million
Casino employment: 11,300

■ Aug. 13, 1980: Sands Casino Hotel opens.

■ Nov. 23, 1980: Harrah's Atlantic City opens.

■ Dec. 9, 1980: Atlantic City Hilton opens. (It closed January 2014 as the Atlantic Club.)
Casino revenue: $642 million
Casino employment: 23,500

■ Nov. 23, 1981: Tropicana Casino and Resort opens.
Casino revenue: $1 billion
Casino employment: 28,300

■ May 14, 1984: Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino opens.
Casino revenue: $1.9 billion
Casino employment: 35,968

■ June 17, 1985: Trump Marina Hotel Casino (now the Golden Nugget) opens.
Casino revenue: $2.1 billion
Casino employment: 37,004

■ March 30, 1987: Showboat Casino Hotel opens.
Casino revenue: $2.4 billion
Casino employment: 39,351

■ April 2, 1990: Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort opens.
Casino revenue: $2.9 billion
Casino employment: 45,241

■ July 2, 2003: Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa opens.
Casino revenue: $4.4 billion
Casino employment: 42,378

■ Nov. 11, 2006: Sands Casino Hotel closes.
Casino revenue: $5.2 billion
Casino employment: 45,101

■ April 2, 2012: Revel Casino Hotel opens.
Casino revenue: $3 billion
Casino employment: 35,777

■ Jan. 13, 2014: Atlantic Club closes.
Casino revenue: $2.8 billion
Casino employment: 30,676

■ July-August 2014: Showboat, Trump Plaza, Revel announce impending closures.
Casino revenue: $1.3 billion (January-June 2014)
Casino employment: 31,960

■ Aug. 31, 2014: Showboat closes

■ Sept. 1-2, 2014: Revel closes
Casino revenue: $1.5 billion (January-July 2014)
Casino employment: 31,777

Few women in construction; recruiting efforts rise

NEW YORK (AP)—Janice Moreno graduated from college with a degree in English literature, but never landed a job paying more than $12 an hour. Now, at 36, she's back in the classroom—in safety glasses and a T-shirt—learning how to be a carpenter.

"I believe it's going to pay off," she said amid instruction in sawing techniques.

If Moreno's six-week training program in New York City leads to a full-time job, she'll have bucked long odds. On this Labor Day weekend, ponder the latest federal data: About 7.1 million Americans were employed in construction-related occupations last year—and only 2.6 percent were women.

That percentage has scarcely budged since the 1970s, while women have made gains since then in many other fields.

Why the low numbers, in an industry abounding with high-paying jobs that don't require college degrees? Reasons include a dearth of recruitment efforts aimed at women and hard-to-quash stereotypes that construction work doesn't suit them.

Another factor, according to a recent report by the National Women's Law Center, is pervasive sexual harassment of women at work sites.

"It's not surprising that the construction trades are sometimes called `the industry that time forgot,'" said Fatima Goss Graves, the center's vice president for education and employment. "It's time for this industry to enter the modern era—to expand apprenticeships and training opportunities for women, hire qualified female workers and enforce a zero tolerance policy against sexual harassment."

Efforts to accomplish those goals are more advanced in New York than in many parts of the country, with pledges by unions, employers and city officials to boost women's share of construction jobs. One key player is Nontraditional Employment for Women, or NEW, a nonprofit which offers training programs such as the one taken by Moreno.

The organization has arrangements with several unions to take women directly into their multiyear apprenticeships—at a starting wage of around $17, plus benefits—once they complete the program. After four or five years, they can attain journeyman status, with hourly pay of $40 or more.

Nation

Ferguson slowly starting to make comeback

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP)—The unmistakable signs of healing are beginning to dot Ferguson, even the small area of this St. Louis-area suburb that was the center of attention for three weeks. But those in the community know they've got a long way to go.

Some merchants say business hasn't come close to recovering from the aftermath of the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was black and unarmed, by a white Ferguson police officer.

Businesses along a stretch of West Florissant Avenue that were victimized by looting are replacing boarded-up windows, with signs out front reading, "Open For Business." People who have been too scared to take their kids out of the home are milling about once again. A barbecue joint nearly torn apart hasn't been fully repaired, but an outdoor grill fills the air with a tantalizing smoky aroma.

"Look at those signs over there," Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson said as his SUV drove past a row of tidy ranch-style homes, all with "I Love Ferguson" signs in their front yards. "A few days ago those signs would have been ripped up or thrown in a trash can or painted on. And they stand today.

"That is definitely symbolic of marching down the road toward solutions and a better tomorrow."

Ferguson, once a hardly noticed suburban St. Louis community of 21,000, has raised new concerns and questions about how police interact with the black community, as the immediate aftermath of the shooting was looting and rioting met with a police response of tear gas, military-style vehicles and police dogs. The police action in those initial days drew so much criticism that Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon stepped in and appointed Johnson and the highway patrol to take over security on Aug. 14.

Johnson, 51, has more at stake in Ferguson's rebound than a typical police officer—he's lived just outside of the town most of his life.

AP

Hundreds of people gather around the memorial to Michael Brown in the Canfield Green apartments for prayer during a rally in Ferguson, Mo., on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014.

Many of his friends and acquaintances have been brutally honest: One man told him he has been broken by Brown's death and the events that followed. Another man who has run a business on West Florissant for two decades said he didn't know if it was worth it to reopen.

"But I went by the store the other day and I saw him fixing it up," Johnson said. "There's nothing greater than the will to withstand."

Willpower alone can't restore normalcy to the shops and restaurants on the avenue. Former Mayor Brian Fletcher started the group "Friends of the City of Ferguson," which has raised more than $13,000 to help businesses repair the damage.

Mohamad Yaacoub, owner of Sam's Meat Market & More, had two signs in the front of the market. One read, "Our Prayers Go Out To The Michael Brown Family." The other, "Now Open," was tacked to plywood where a window used to be.

He's not certain he'll ever get all of his customers back.

"Many of my customers are not from Ferguson and they're afraid to come back because of the violence," said Yaacoub, who immigrated to the United States from Lebanon in 1999. "We're not selling anything."

The good news for Yaacoub is the support from the neighborhood—people dropping by with best wishes. One small boy offered to donate a dollar. Yaacoub took the money, and gave the boy candy in return.

Down the street from Yaacoub, Ferguson Burger Bar & More owner Charles Davis took over the restaurant Aug. 8—the day before Brown was killed. He kept his doors open throughout the unrest, and he's still waiting to see what a normal week will look like.

"Ferguson is strong," the 47-year-old said. "It will go back to normal. We're still going to be here after America's moved on to something else. We're strong and we're going to only get stronger."

Judge finds Texas abortion rules unconstitutional

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Tough new Texas abortion restrictions are on hold after a federal judge found Republican-led efforts to hold abortion clinics to hospital-level operating standards unconstitutional in a ruling that spares more than a dozen clinics from imminent closure.

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office has filed an appeal of Friday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel in Austin, court records show.

In his ruling, Yeakel cited other rules GOP lawmakers have recently passed in his decision to throw out requirements that clinics meet hospital operating standards.

Those prior abortion restrictions include mandatory sonograms and a 24-hour waiting period after a woman first seeks out an abortion.

"These substantial obstacles have reached a tipping point," Yeakel wrote in a 21-page opinion.

Yeakel sided with clinics that sued over one of the most disputed measures of a sweeping anti-abortion bill signed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry in 2013. The ruling stops new clinic requirements that would have left seven abortion facilities in Texas come Monday, when the law was set to take effect.

However, in its court filing in the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the state asked that the ruling be put on hold during the appeals process. It was not immediately clear when the appeals court would rule.

Texas currently has 19 abortion providers—already down from more than 40 just two years ago, according to groups that sued the state for the second time over the law known as HB2.

The ruling blocks a portion of the law that would have required abortion facilities in Texas to have operating rooms, air filtration systems and other costly additions that are typically only mandated in surgical settings.

"I am truly disappointed in today's ruling that undermines a concerted effort to improve health care for women in Texas by raising the standard of care in abortion clinics," Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said Friday.

Yeakel, however, concluded the intent was only to "close existing licensed abortion clinics."

Clinics called the measures a backdoor effort to outlaw abortions, which has been a constitutional right since the Roe v. Wade ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973.

Under the new restrictions, the only remaining abortion facilities in Texas would have been in major cities, and there would have been none in the entire western half of the nation's second-largest state. For women in El Paso, the closest abortion provider would be in New Mexico—an option the state wanted Yeakel to take into consideration, even though New Mexico's rules for abortion clinics are far less rigorous.

"The evidence has been stacking up against the state and against the politicians who so cynically passed these laws in the name of safety," said Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman's Health, which would have been among the clinic operators affected.

Miller said that she will now seek to re-open a clinic in the Rio Grande Valley as soon as the weekend. The clinic closed in March, leaving the nearest abortion provider more than 200 miles away in San Antonio.

Some clinics in Texas already stopped offering abortions after another part of the 2013 bill required doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. That part of the law has been upheld by the 5th Circuit in New Orleans, where the state now seeks a second reversal.

People rally at Ohio Wal-Mart where cops shot man

BEAVERCREEK, Ohio (AP)—Some 200 people held signs and chanted Saturday outside a Wal-Mart where a young man with an air rifle was fatally shot by police.

The rally was the latest effort by people wanting to shed more light on the Aug. 5 shooting of John Crawford III inside the store in the Dayton suburb of Beavercreek. Police responded after a caller said a man was waving a gun; they say Crawford refused orders to put down an air rifle.

An attorney representing Crawford's family says Wal-Mart surveillance video of the shooting shows it was unjustified. Crawford is black, while the two officers involved are white.

Signs and chants at the rally urged, "Release the tape." Organizers said the Rev. Al Sharpton plans to come to the area in a few weeks to speak about the shooting.

A special grand jury will meet Sept. 22 to consider charges in the case. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said releasing the surveillance video could raise issues of a tainted jury pool if the case results in a trial.

"I think that it is playing with dynamite, frankly, to release that tape at this point," DeWine told the Dayton Daily News. "And I think the dynamite simply is that it blows up and you can't get a fair trial. That's what we worry about."

Crawford's parents want a federal investigation and have met with U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart. Family attorney Michael Wright said Stewart assured them Thursday that the Justice Department is monitoring and assisting Ohio's investigation and will independently determine the merits of any potential federal prosecution.

A spokesman confirmed that federal authorities are monitoring the situation.

Another rally is planned Sunday outside the Wal-Mart by people who say they want to show their support for police.

ACROSS THE NATION

Barista-stand owner faces prostitution charge

EVERETT, Wash. (AP)—The owner of bikini coffee stands in Washington state banked more than $2 million in just three years because her baristas were also selling sex acts, according to local prosecutors. Snohomish County prosecutors charged Carmela Panico, a 52-year-old former nude dancer, with promoting prostitution and money laundering, alleging that she operated drive-thru brothels throughout the county north of Seattle, The Everett Herald reported Thursday. Her baristas made money mostly on tips, saying they could earn hundreds of thousands of dollars, authorities said. The women said they could make up to $14 for baring their breasts or genitals and charged more for sex acts, according to charging documents.

Feds: Plane with unconscious pilot goes into ocean

CHINCOTEAGUE, Va. (AP)—A pilot lost consciousness and the plane drifted into restricted airspace over the nation's capital, scrambling fighter jets that stayed with the small aircraft until it ran out of fuel and crashed Saturday into the Atlantic Ocean, the Coast Guard said. Crews searched the waters for the single-engine Cirrus plane, which crashed about 50 miles southeast of Chincoteague Island along the Virginia coast, Coast Guard Petty Officer Nate Littlejohn said. The plane took off from Waukesha, Wisconsin, and was headed to Manassas, Virginia, which is about 30 miles southwest of Washington, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Peter Knudson said. The Coast Guard was notified about 2:40 p.m. Saturday that the plane failed to land in Manassas and flew into restricted airspace. Two Air Force F16s took to the air and confirmed the pilot was unconscious. They stayed with the plane until it crashed.

Girl, 9, dies; trapped in sand at Oregon beach

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. (AP)—A 9-year-old girl died when a sand hole collapsed on her at a beach, police in the Oregon coastal town of Lincoln City said. Firefighters and police responded shortly after 5 p.m. Friday and found a group of people trying to dig the girl out, Lt. Jerry Palmer said. Officers helped extract the girl, who was identified Saturday as Isabel Grace Franks, from a large hole. Police began CPR after Isabel was pulled free, unconscious and not breathing. North Lincoln Fire and Rescue and ambulance medical teams took over CPR, and Isabel was taken to a hospital. Isabel and her family were visiting the coast from Sandy, Oregon, which is 28 miles southeast of Portland, Palmer said.

Asia

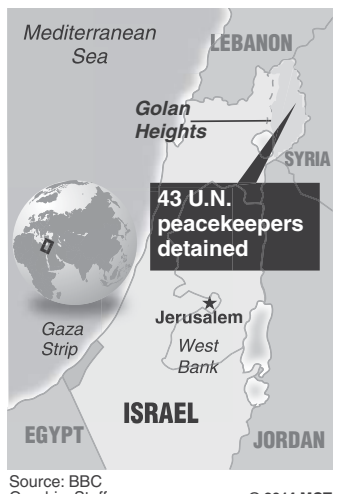
All Filipino peacekeepers escape Golan standoff

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Under cover of darkness, 40 Filipino peacekeepers made a daring escape after being surrounded and coming under fire by Syrian rebels in the Golan Heights, the Philippine military chief said Sunday, while 44 Fijian troops remained in the hands of the al-Qaida-linked insurgents.

After coming under rebel attack Saturday, the first group of 35 Filipino peacekeepers was successfully escorted out of a U.N. encampment in Breiqa by Irish and Filipino forces on board armored vehicles, Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang and other military officials said.

Another group of 40 Filipino troops had remained trapped at another encampment, called Rwihana, by more than 100 gunmen who rammed the camp's gates with their trucks and fired mortar rounds after the Filipinos refused to surrender with their weapons. Surrounded and besieged, the Filipinos returned fire in self-defense, Philippine military officials said.

Syrian government forces fired artillery rounds from a distance at one point to prevent the Filipino peacekeepers from being overwhelmed, said Col. Roberto Ancan, a Philippine military official who helped monitor the tense Golan standoff from the Philippine capital, Manila, and mobilize support for the besieged troops.



Source: BBC
Graphic: Staff
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"Although they were surrounded and outnumbered, they held their ground for seven hours," Catapang said in a news conference in Manila, adding there were no Filipino casualties. "We commend our soldiers for exhibiting resolve even while under heavy fire."

The 40 Filipinos fled with their weapons from the Rwihana encampment under cover darkness overnight, traveling across the chilly hills for nearly two hours, before meeting up with other U.N. forces, which escorted them to safety early Sunday, Philippine officials said.

During the siege, the Philippine secretaries of defense and foreign affairs, along with the country's top military brass, gathered in a crisis room at the military headquarters in the capital to communicate with the Filipino forces and help guide them out of danger. The Syrian and Israeli governments, along with the United States and Qatar, provided support, the Philippine military said without elaborating.

AP

Philippine military chief Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang shows reporters where Filipino peacekeepers in Golan Heights have been repositioned during a press conference at Camp Aguinaldo military headquarters in suburban Quezon city, Philippines on Sunday Aug. 31, 2014.

"We may call it the greatest escape," Catapang said.

In New York, The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, or UNDOF, whose mission is to monitor a 1974 disengagement in the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria, reported that shortly after midnight local time, during a ceasefire agreed with the armed elements, all the 40 Filipino peacekeepers left their position and "arrived in a safe location one hour later."

The clashes in the U.N.-patrolled zone erupted after Syrian rebel groups—including al-Qaida's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front—overran the Quneitra crossing on the frontier between Syrian and Israeli controlled parts of the Golan on Wednesday, seizing 44 Fijian peacekeepers.

The SITE Intelligence Group reported that the Nusra Front had posted a statement on its Twitter account Saturday taking responsibility for detaining the Fijian peacekeepers. The Nusra Front stated that the Fijian detainees "are in a safe place, and they are in good health, and that we have given them what they need of food and treatment."

The Nusra Front also posted a photo showing what it said were the captured Fijians in their military uniforms along with 45 identification cards, SITE said.

SITE added that the Nusra Front claimed the Fijians were seized in retaliation for the U.N.'s ignoring "the daily shedding of the Muslims' blood" in Syria" and even colluding with Syrian President Bashar Assad's army "to facilitate its movement to strike the vulnerable Muslims" through a buffer zone in the Golan Heights. The SITE report could not be independently confirmed.

The U.N. mission has 1,223 troops from six countries: Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal, Netherlands and the Philippines. A number of countries has withdrawn their peacekeepers due to the escalating violence.

Philippine officials said Filipino forces would remain in Golan until their mission ends in October, adding they would not be withdrawn prematurely following the rebel attacks and the capture of the Fijian peacekeepers.

Both U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Security Council strongly condemned Saturday's attack on peacekeepers' positions and the ongoing detention of the Fijian peacekeepers.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan protester dies in clashes with police

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police are clashing with scattered pockets of anti-government protesters trying to advance on the prime minister's residence after a night of violence that saw hundreds wounded and the first death in more than two weeks of demonstrations. Senior hospital official Dr. Wasim Khawaja said Sunday that protester Naveed Razzaq drowned in a ditch after he was in a crowd that was bombarded with tear gas. More than 300 people were wounded in the clashes, medical officials said. Razzaq was a supporter of cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri, who along with famed cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan has been leading twin protests since Aug. 14 calling on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign, alleging massive voting fraud in the election that brought him into office last year in Pakistan's first democratic transfer of power.

Official: 23 people killed in Afghanistan crash

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan spokesman says 23 people were killed when a passenger van and a fuel tanker collided in western Afghanistan. Raouf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial police chief in western Herat province, said the crash happened Sunday morning. He said four other people were injured in the accident, on the main highway between the city of Herat and the Iranian border. He said he did not know what caused the accident but that initial reports indicated both drivers were at fault.

Pro wrestling returns to the ring in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Koreans got their first look at pro wrestling in about 20 years on Saturday when an ex-NFL lineman and 20 other grapplers from around the world took to the ring for an exhibition put together by a charismatic former Japanese pro-wrestler who is now a member of parliament. Kanji "Antonio" Inoki, who organized the two-day event in Pyongyang, said he hopes it will pave the way for more exchanges with the North. The exhibition was the first major sports event with big-name foreigners in the North Korean capital since Dennis Rodman and a team of other former NBA players staged a game in January for leader Kim Jong Un's birthday.

China warns against foreign meddling in Hong Kong

BEIJING (AP)—China warned against foreign meddling in Hong Kong's politics Saturday ahead of an expected announcement to recommend highly contentious restrictions on the first direct elections for the leader of the Chinese-controlled financial hub.

An article in the ruling Communist Party's flagship newspaper People's Daily said that some in the former British colony were colluding with outside forces to interfere in Hong Kong's governance.

"Not only are they undermining Hong Kong's stability and development, but they're also attempting to turn Hong Kong into a bridgehead for subverting and infiltrating the Chinese mainland," said the article.

"This can absolutely not be permitted," it said, citing an unidentified official in the Foreign Ministry's department for Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan affairs.

The article said that as a special administrative region of China, Hong Kong's affairs are entirely a Chinese internal matter. China will refute and make "solemn representations" in response to statements and actions by foreign forces and demand that they "cease meddling in Hong Kong's affairs and Chinese internal political matters by any means," it said.

The article did not identify any individuals or groups, although Britain and the U.S. have both been vocal about their hopes for genuine democratic reform in Hong Kong.

The warning appeared as China's legislature was expected to announce Sunday that an elite pro-Beijing body must vet candidates for the territory's leader starting from 2017—setting up a showdown with pro-democracy groups who want the public to be able to nominate people freely.

Hong Kong newspapers have reported that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in Beijing will recommend that voters choose from up to three candidates named by a similar nominating body while the public gets no say.

That would resemble the current system under which a 1,200-member panel stacked with mostly pro-Beijing elites gets to pick the leader.

Democracy activists are threatening to respond with a mass sit-in paralyzing the financial district that is the symbolic heart of the city. Student leaders are also considering a walkout of university classes next month.

Since being handed back from Britain in 1997, Hong Kong has retained a high degree of legal, economic and political autonomy. But there are growing concerns among many of the territory's 7 million people that Beijing wishes to insert itself more strongly into Hong Kong's affairs, particularly in ensuring that its leadership remain beholden to the Communist Party.

World

Ebola takes big toll on already poor health care

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—When the dreaded Ebola virus began infecting people in the Sierra Leone town of Kenema, Dr. Sheik Humarr Khan and his team were on the front lines. After stepping out of his protective suit following hours on a sweltering ward, he would jump on the phone to coordinate with the Ministry of Health, to deal with personnel issues and tend to hospital business.

He was jovial but forceful. When he walked into a room everyone looked to him for direction and he gave it decisively, said Daniel Bausch, an American doctor who worked with Khan.

But then Khan tested positive for Ebola at the end of July and died soon after. He is one of at least two leading doctors in Sierra Leone who have died in the outbreak, which has also hit Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal. The World Health Organization says it has sickened a higher proportion of medical staff than any other on record, with 240 contracting Ebola and more than half of them dying.

The toll on health workers was felt immediately by grieving and frightened colleagues and by patients who had fewer people to attend to them, and it will likely set back health care systems—poorly equipped amid rampant poverty to begin with—for years to come.

"These are people who were the backbone" of efforts to improve struggling health systems, said Bausch, a professor of tropical medicine at Tulane University. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone "are trying to dig themselves out of years of stalled or retrograde development and making some progress. This is setting them back immeasurably."

Khan had been an expert in Lassa, which like Ebola is a hemorrhagic fever, meaning he brought tremendous expertise to the current outbreak. He was also key to improving Sierra Leone's health system in general. The region's weak health system infrastructure, along with poverty, helped fuel Ebola's spread.

Modupeh Cole, a top physician at Connaught Hospital in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, also died of Ebola. He was one of only three senior doctors who supervised junior doctors at the hospital, said Dr. Oliver Johnson, a British doctor who has worked there for two years as part of the King's Partnership Sierra Leone. Cole's death will hobble the hospital and might render it unable to offer post-graduate specialist training, Johnson said.

The loss of senior doctors makes a huge impact because there are so few of them. Liberia has only one doctor for every 100,000 people, while Sierra Leone has two, according to World Health Organization statistics. In comparison, the U.S. has 245 doctors for every 100,000 people.

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are some of the world's poorest countries and have histories of coups or civil war. Many of their brightest citizens, including medical professionals, had abandoned their countries and governments struggled to provide even the most basic services.

Even before the outbreak, it was common for family members of patients in a Sierra Leonean hospital to be asked to supply basic equipment themselves, popping out to a pharmacy to buy gloves for the doctors, syringes and over-the-counter pain-killers.

In Liberia, the government-run hospital in most counties is lucky to have one surgeon, on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, according to Dr. Frank Glover, an American medical missionary who has worked extensively in Liberia and who founded SHIELD in Africa, which is dedicated to improving health care. Most county hospitals do not have ambulances, X-ray machines or a lab to do blood work, he said.

Since the outbreak, many hospitals and clinics in Freetown and Liberia's capital of Monrovia that are not involved in Ebola care have closed, as staff and patients fled out of fear they would get the virus. Liberia and Sierra Leone have seen health workers walk off the job to demand hazard pay and safer working conditions. That means malaria, typhoid and cholera cases are going untreated—a situation Doctors Without Borders called "an emergency within the emergency."

Bausch recently found himself on an Ebola ward in Sierra Leone with only one other doctor and 55 patients because the nurses were all on strike.

"When we went in that day, it was a very emotional experience to try to meet the needs of so many people," he said. "There's people saying, you know, `Doctor, I'm hungry, I don't have food,' or, `I'm thirsty, I don't have water.'"

Bausch believes he was working with Khan around the time that the Sierra Leonean doctor became infected—and for Bausch there was no "aha moment." The mistake can be so small, no one sees or remembers it.

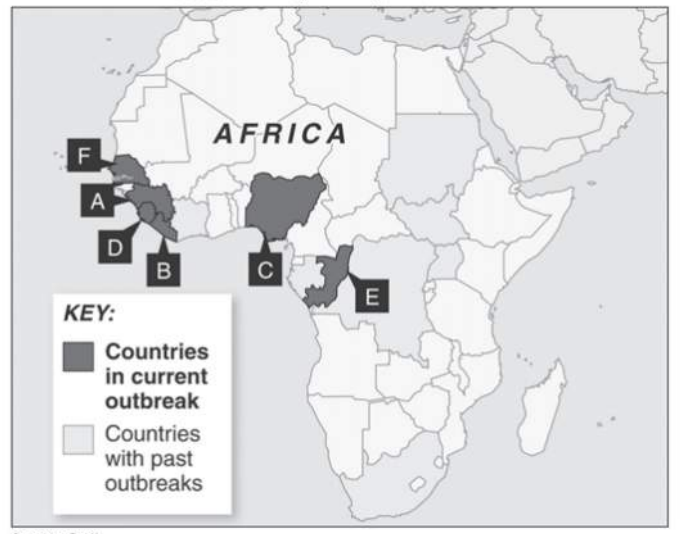
Bausch said the single most important thing the outbreak needs is more people—and not necessarily experts but people to clean wards and do laundry and help medical staff ensure they're using their protective gear properly. That's the best way to ensure patients are being taken care of and that health workers aren't becoming so exhausted that they're making the kinds of mistakes that can lead to infection.

Ebola reported in Senegal

A student from Guinea traveled to Senegal after being in close contact with the disease. He checked into a hospital in Senegalese capital Dakar and has been tested positive for Ebola.

NUMBER OF EBOLA CASES AND DEATHS as of Aug. 27

Country		Probable/ suspected	Confirmed	Total of confirmed and probable/suspected
A Guinea	Cases	166	482	430 deaths
	Deaths	143	287	648 cases
B Liberia	Cases	1056	322	694 deaths
	Deaths	469	225	1378 cases
C Nigeria	Cases	4	13	6 deaths
	Deaths	1	5	17 cases
D Sierra Leone	Cases	91	935	422 deaths
	Deaths	42	380	1026 cases
E Congo	Cases	24	2	13 deaths
	Deaths	13	0	26 cases
F Senegal	Cases	0	1	
	Deaths	0	0	1 case



Graphic: Staff
Source: Reuters, World Health Organization
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EU threatens Russia with more sanctions

BRUSSELS (AP)—Despite tough rhetoric decrying Russia's increasing military involvement in Ukraine, European Union leaders on Sunday stopped short of imposing new sanctions against Moscow right away.

Instead, the 28-nation bloc's heads of state and government tasked their executive body to "urgently" prepare tougher economic sanctions that could be adopted within a week, according to EU summit chairman Herman Van Rompuy.

The decision on new sanctions will depend on the evolution of the situation on the ground but "everybody is fully aware that we have to act quickly," he added. The EU leaders call on Russia to "immediately withdraw all its military assets and forces from Ukraine," they said in a joint statement.

NATO said this week that at least 1,000 Russian soldiers are in Ukraine. Russia denies that. NATO also says Russia has amassed some 20,000 troops just across Ukraine's eastern border, which could rapidly carry out a full-scale invasion.

The fighting between the military and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine has so far claimed 2,600 lives, according to U.N. figures.

The U.S. and the EU have so far imposed sanctions against dozens of Russian officials, several companies as well as the country's financial and arms industry. Moscow has retaliated by banning food imports.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the new sanctions would target the same sectors as previous punitive measures, which also included an export ban for some high technology and oil exploration equipment.

"If Russia continues to escalate the crisis it will come with a high cost," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. "It's time for everyone to get down to the business of peace-making. It is not too late, but time is quickly running out," he said.

Several European leaders had called for additional sanctions at the outset of the meeting in Brussels, but the fear of an economic backlash apparently prevailed and led the bloc to grant Russia another chance at avoiding tougher action. New sanctions would have required unanimity among the leaders.

Russia is the EU's No. 3 trading partner and one of its biggest oil and gas suppliers. The EU, in turn, is Russia's biggest commercial partner, making any sanctions more biting than similar measures adopted by the U.S.

Pro-Russia rebels confident after making gains

STAROBESHEVE, Ukraine (AP)—As the survivor of a tank attack on a Ukrainian army truck was being carried into an ambulance, he was showered with verbal abuse by a rebel fighter.

"Why didn't you say before that you were alive? Why so quiet?" the rebel taunted. Minutes later, the Ukrainian soldier drew his last breath.

Under the gaze of rebels, Ukrainian soldiers loaded the bodies of six other dead comrades onto trucks outside the village of Starobesheve. A couple of kilometers away, in the village itself, other rebels made wisecracks and boasted about dealing another punishing blow to Ukrainian forces.

After weeks of yielding ground, the Russian-backed separatists are brimming with confidence following a string of seemingly effortless victories.

On Saturday, Ukraine announced it was abandoning Ilovaisk, a city 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of Starobesheve. Surrounded on all sides over several days, they sustained fire so intense that the government was compelled to plead for a corridor out.

"We are surrendering this city," said Ukrainian Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for the national security council. "Our task now is to evacuate our military with the least possible losses in order to regroup."

Lysenko said that regular units of the military had also been ordered to retreat from Novosvitlivka and Khryashchuvate, two towns on the main road between the Russian border and Luhansk, the second-largest rebel-held city. Ukraine had claimed control of Novosvitlivka earlier in August.

Adding to that, Ukrainian government forces are now facing the prospect of an onslaught from yet another front along the coast of the southeastern Azov Sea.

Ukraine and numerous Western governments have said they believe rebels have been amply supplied with powerful Russian weaponry and that regular Russian troops are engaged in combat. NATO estimates that at least 1,000 Russian soldiers are in Ukraine even though Russia heatedly denies any involvement in fighting that has so far claimed at least 2,600 lives, according to U.N. figures.

WORLD BRIEFS

Silva surges ahead in Brazil's presidential vote

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's once humdrum presidential race now resembles one of the country's famed soap operas, with a newcomer thrust into the spotlight by a plane crash and the longtime favorite reeling from a one-two punch of bad news. With just over a month to go before the Oct. 5 vote, President Dilma Rousseff awoke to newspaper headlines Saturday announcing that Brazil's long-sputtering economy had officially entered recession for the first time in more than five years. Worse for her, perhaps, were the other banner headlines splashed on front pages: A poll showing Rousseff trailing her new rival Marina Silva by 10 percentage points if the election goes, as expected, to a second round. "Yesterday must have been President Dilma's most difficult day in a long time—she only had awful news," wrote Merval Pereira, a political columnist for the O Globo newspaper.

Tunisia recovers bodies of Syrian boat migrants

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—The Tunisian Coast Guard has recovered at least 41 bodies of migrants, mostly Syrians, who drowned trying to sail to Europe, a local official said Saturday. The bodies were found after a search was launched Friday after a few decomposed bodies washed up on shore suggesting the sinking of another boat carrying migrants from North Africa to Europe, seeking a better life. Mustapha Abdel Kebir, the mayor of Ben Guerdane, a border town with Libya, said that identity papers recovered from the bodies indicate that most were Syrian and the dead included women and children.

Health & Fitness

Do-it-yourself blood pressure care can beat MDs

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—"Do-it-yourself" blood pressure measurements and medicine changes work better than usual doctor-office care in some patients, a study of older adults in England found.

Those who did their own readings at home and adjusted their medicine as needed had healthier blood pressure levels after a year than those who got standard doctors' care.

Self-care patients weren't completely on their own—any changes they made were part of a treatment plan previously OK'd by their doctors. But the patients didn't need to consult their doctors every time they increased the dose if it was part of the original treatment plan.

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2013 file photo, Monica Torres, left, checks the blood pressure of Esther Fisher, right, during an event at the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center in Jackson, Miss.

Why self-management worked best is uncertain, but patients who participated were taking more medication than the others and were perhaps more vigilant than doctors treating the usual-care group, the study suggests.

It's possible usual-care doctors had "clinical inertia"—a phenomenon described in other research showing that physicians often fail to increase blood pressure medication doses even when office measurements show patients' levels are too high, said study author Richard McManus, a professor and researcher at the University of Oxford.

The study was published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Nearly 1 in 3 U.S. adults have high blood pressure—measuring 140 over 90 or higher—but only about half of them have it adequately controlled, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. High blood pressure rates are similar in England, health surveys there have found.

The study involved 450 patients with previous heart trouble, strokes, diabetes or kidney disease, aged 70 on average, who were followed for a year. About half got usual care; the others did self-care.

Average blood pressure measurements at the study's start were about 143 over 80. At the end, that dropped to about 128 over 74 in the self-care patients and 138 over 76 in the usual-care group.

That difference would be expected to result in a drop in heart problems or other complications," although more research is needed to evaluate long-term benefits, according to a JAMA editorial.

The 'silent killer'

Most middle-age Americans develop high blood pressure, and nearly one-third of those with the disease do not know they have it.

What the numbers mean

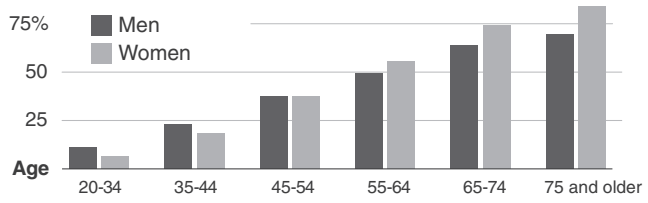
Blood pressure readings consist of two numbers

	Systolic Force of blood moving through arteries as heart beats		Diastolic Force of blood moving through arteries as heart rests
Normal	Less than 120	and	Less than 80
Prehypertension	120-139	or	80-89
Hypertension (high blood pressure)	**140-159***	or	**90-99***

*For readings at the doctor's office, which may be higher due to nervousness; 135/85 is high for readings taken at home

Who gets it

Prevalence of high blood pressure, by age group and gender



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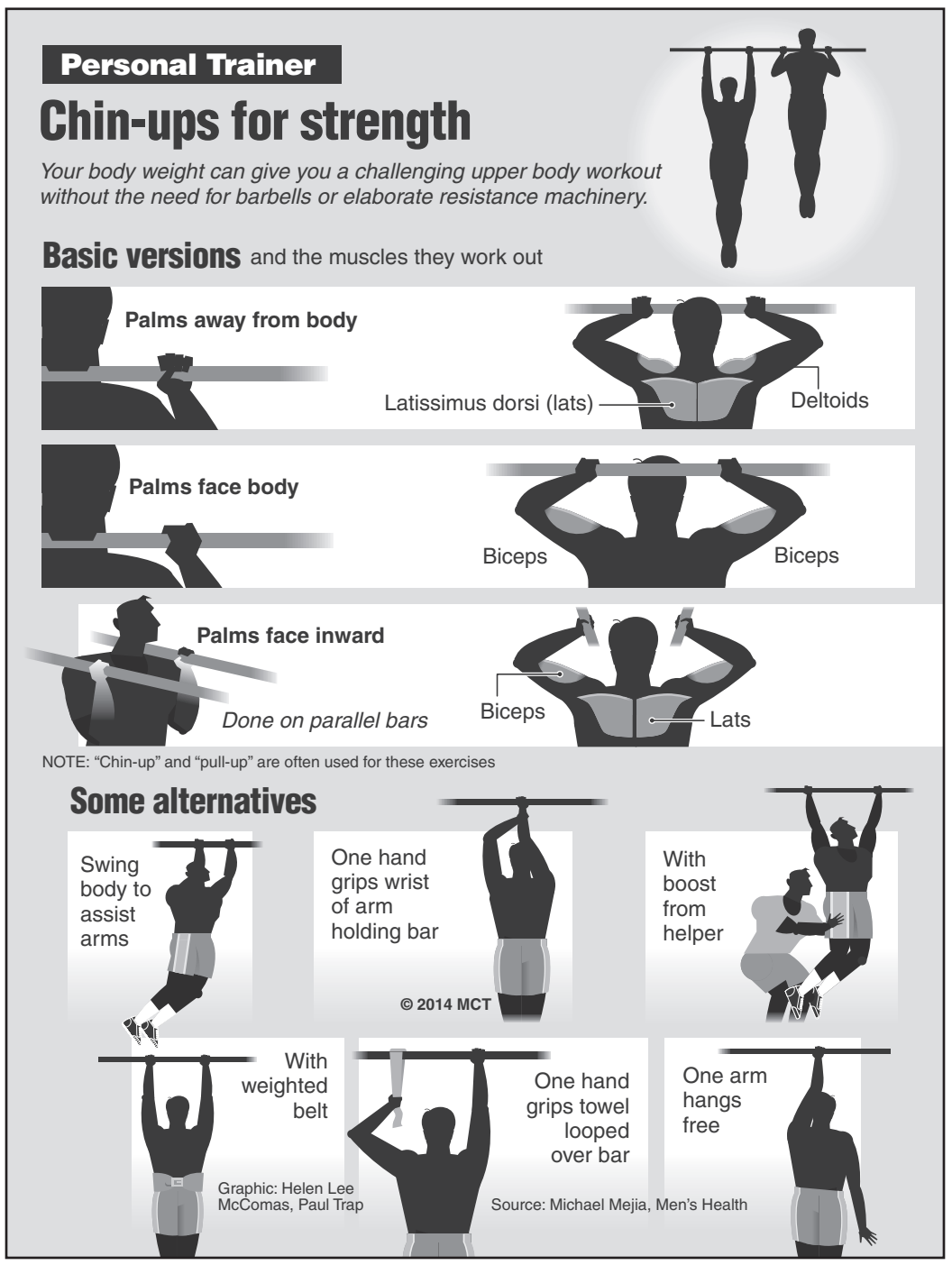
Source: American Heart Association, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Chicago Tribune


Personal Trainer
Chin-ups for strength
Your body weight can give you a challenging upper body workout without the need for barbells or elaborate resistance machinery.
Basic versions and the muscles they work out
Palms away from body
Latissimus dorsi (lats)
Deltoids
Palms face body
Biceps
Biceps
Palms face inward
Done on parallel bars
Biceps
Lats
NOTE: "Chin-up" and "pull-up" are often used for these exercises
Some alternatives
Swing body to assist arms
One hand grips wrist of arm holding bar
With boost from helper
With weighted belt
One hand grips towel looped over bar
One arm hangs free
© 2014 MCT
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
Source: Michael Mejia, Men's Health

Experimental Ebola drug heals all monkeys in study

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

An experimental Ebola drug healed all 18 monkeys infected with the deadly virus in a study, boosting hopes that the treatment might help fight the outbreak raging through West Africa—once more of it can be made.

The monkeys were given the drug, ZMapp, three to five days after they were infected with the virus and when most were showing symptoms. That is several days later than any other experimental Ebola treatment tested so far.

The drug also completely protected six other monkeys given a slightly different version of it three days after infection in a pilot test. These two studies are the first monkey tests ever done on ZMapp.

"The level of improvement was utterly beyond my honest expectation," said one study leader, Gary Kobinger of the Public Health Agency of Canada in Winnipeg.

"For animal data, it's extremely impressive," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which had a role in the work.

It's not known how well the drug would work in people, who can take up to 21 days to show symptoms and are not infected the way these monkeys were in a lab.

Several experts said it's not possible to estimate a window of opportunity for treating people, but that it was encouraging that the animals recovered when treated even after advanced disease developed.

The study was published online Friday by the journal Nature.

ZMapp had never been tested in humans before two Americans aid workers who got Ebola while working in Africa were allowed to try it. The rest of the limited supply was given to five others.

There is no more ZMapp now, and once a new batch is ready, it still needs some basic tests before it can be tried again during the African outbreak, Fauci said. "We do need to know what the proper dose is" in people and that it's safe, he said.

Ebola has killed more than 1,500 people this year and the World Health Organization says there could be as many as 20,000 cases before the outbreak is brought under control. On Friday, it spread to a fifth African country—Senegal, where a university student who traveled there from Guinea was being treated.

There is no approved vaccine or specific treatment, just supportive care to keep them hydrated and nourished. Efforts have focused on finding cases and tracking their contacts to limit the disease, which spreads through contact with blood and other fluids.

ZMapp is three antibodies that attach to cells infected with Ebola, helping the immune system kill them.

Life & Style

It's not just Hello Kitty: Japan's character craze

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Hello Kitty, whom many learned last week is a girl and not a cat, may be the queen of Japan's cute characters, but she's hardly the only one.

There are thousands, and they are ubiquitous: Long-time favorite Doraemon (who really is a cat) has a daily quiz in a national newspaper. Little monster Pikachu hosted a theme cafe in Tokyo this summer. Stress-relieving Rilakkuma ("relaxed bear") dangles from teenage girls' school bags.

Characters are not just for kids in Japan, but a part of business and social life. Some see Japan's cute-craze, known as "kawaii," as a sign of immaturity, but others say it's rooted in a harmony-centered way of life that goes back to ancient animist traditions.

Japanese used to worship many gods, and portrayed ghosts as comical characters. In what is seen as the origin of Japanese manga, or comics, a set of 12th-century scroll paintings humorously portray frogs, rabbits and other animals in human activities, from sumo wrestling to temple worshipping.

Hello Kitty and Doraemon now face hordes of newcomers, many launched by municipal governments to promote tourism and local products. Regular "character summits" choose a national favorite. The market reached 2.3 trillion yen ($23 billion) last year, according to think tank Yano Research Institute Ltd.

Here are a few that have risen above the crowd:

THE CAT THAT'S NOT

Created 40 years ago, Hello Kitty is made up of just a few simple strokes: two dots for eyes and a tiny circle for a nose, and no mouth. In contrast to expressive American characters such as Mickey Mouse and Garfield, Hello Kitty doesn't show emotions, and the simplicity has attracted fans from children to street fashion devotees. An article in the Los Angeles Times last week created an Internet firestorm when it explained that the character is not a cat; many insisted she must be. Despite her cat-like ears and whiskers, she is a "cheerful girl with a gentle heart," says the official website of her theme park, Sanrio Puroland. Born Kitty White in the suburbs of London, she weighs the same as three apples, enjoys baking cookies and dreams about becoming a poet or pianist.

A LOVABLE BEAR THAT'S FREE

Goofy black bear Kumamon is perhaps the most successful of the mushrooming new characters that seek to promote a locality in Japan. Its name means a native of Kumamoto, a prefecture in southern Japan, and the character was introduced on March 12, 2010, the day Japan's high-speed bullet train entered full service in the south. The prefecture doesn't charge a licensing fee to use Kumamon's simple image, and experts say that has been a key to success. As the bear's popularity grew, more and more companies wanted to cash in. Today it appears not only on Kumamoto souvenirs, but also on innumerable products including instant cup noodles, snacks and cosmetics.

AP

In this June 10, 2009 file photo, Hello Kitty poses in its original tartan blouse and ribbon during a news conference to unveil "Official Hello Kitty Tartan" products at British Embassy in Tokyo.

NOT A BEAR BUT A PEAR

A hyperactive Asian pear from the city of Funabashi, just outside Tokyo, has taken Japan by storm in the past year. Funassyi, a combination of Funabashi and the Japanese word for pear, is an exception to Japan's more typically laid-back characters. In a bright yellow, stretchy bodysuit, the pear-fairy jumps up and down frantically and talks in a rapid-fire, high-pitched voice, shouting "nashi!" (pear) at the end of each sentence. Funassyi is not an authorized city mascot, but the product of an entertainer from Funabashi. Its popularity exploded after a tea commercial last year. Funassyi appears regularly on TV and is releasing a CD from Universal Music Japan. The character reportedly earned 200 million yen ($2 million) last year.

JAPAN'S ALL-TIME FAVORITE

Doraemon, a blue robotic cat from the 22nd century, started as a manga (comic) character in 1969. It has a four-dimensional pocket in its stomach with a seemingly endless supply of items to help its friends. Among them are a "time machine" and "anywhere door" that allows them to travel wherever and to any time period they wish. Doraemon is popular in many parts of the world, including Asia and Latin America, but the television cartoon series didn't debut in the U.S. until this year. Adaptations for an American audience included simplifying the names of two boy characters from Nobita Nobi to "Noby," and Gian to "Big G," and replacing Japanese yen with U.S. dollars.

A STRESS-RELIEVING BEAR

The "relaxing bear" is usually seen lounging on a yellow bean bag, sometimes nibbling on snacks, demonstrating an ultimate stress-free lifestyle. The roommate of a 25-year-old female office worker, Rilakkuma's gentle words such as "sleep and reset" and "let's worry when that happens" have been compiled in a series of popular books, serving as remedies for stressed-out Japan. Created by San-X, a Tokyo-based character-oriented stationary and gift company, Rilakkuma has raked in more than 10 billion yen ($100 million) from stationary, clothing and book sales since its 2003 debut.

VIDEO-GAME MEGASTAR

A chubby yellow mutant rodent, Pikachu is the most popular of more than 400 monsters in the Nintendo video game series Pokemon. The series started in 1996 as a pair of game titles for hand-held player Game Boy, and has evolved into playing cards, animation, video games and movies. Pikachu makes frequent public appearances in Japan, especially during summer school break. Besides the theme cafe in Tokyo's fashionable Roppongi Hills shopping complex, hundreds of Pikachus swarmed into Yokohama in mid-August in a "Pikachu outbreak" event.

THE NEXT BIG THING?

Japan's latest sensation, Youkai Watch started as a video game, and went big in January with the launch of a cartoon on TV. The story centers on teenage protagonists and their encounters with more than 250 characters, including the popular twin-tail cat Jibanyan and floating spirit Whisper. Children collect special coins to call up their favorite specters on arcade game machines. Many of the coins have sold out, and children and their parents waited for hours in long lines outside stores when new coins and related toys went on sale in early August.

Obama's tan suit buzzed around the world

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Quick! What exactly did President Barack Obama say from the White House briefing room about Syria, Iraq and Ukraine while dressed in the tan suit buzzed 'round the world?

Precisely. If you get all your news from social media.

Obama's summer fashion choice, not unprecedented among presidents—himself included—was the talk of social media Thursday. It was both defended as a perfectly appropriate seasonal look and criticized as too big and wholly unpresidential for such serious subject matter.

The Twitter jeers flew: "Taupe and change," one said. Another tweeter riffed off the title of his book with "The audacity of taupe."

While Obama usually dresses in traditional power dark suits, he did don tan for Easter this year. But not while discussing possible U.S. military intervention in the Middle East.

Other presidents who have taken on tan include Bill Clinton, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, George W. Bush and Dwight Eisenhower. In fact, George W. Bush had a suit that his staff called Big Brown. As in, "Oh, no, he's wearing Big Brown today."

In keeping with his times, Franklin D. Roosevelt was fond of white.

Obama's suit accompanied his telling reporters "we don't have a strategy yet" on U.S. military action in Syria against the Islamic State, a violent militant group seeking to establish dominance in the Middle East. He spoke shortly before he met with security advisers.

"The power persona? Gone in that suit," said Los Angeles image consultant Patsy Cisneros, who has worked with U.S. senators, governors and corporate executives. (She has yet to snag a president or a presidential candidate).

AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014 file photo, President Barack Obama smiles as he takes questions about the economy, Iraq, and Ukraine, in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, before convening a meeting with his national security team on the militant threat in Syria and Iraq.

"Everything below his neck was blah. That's not conducive to him being listened to," she said Friday.

One person who didn't take issue with Obama's light tan suit: Steve Schmidt, the Republican strategist who helped lead Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. That would be the same campaign where the Republican National Committee spent thousands on Sarah Palin's clothes and look.

"I think it was a nice-looking suit," the blunt-talking Schmidt bellowed into the phone Friday from Park City, Utah. "Ronald Reagan used to wear brown, tan and khaki suits with some frequency, and I think he looked fine."

Of the social media flap, Schmidt added: "It just means that the director of the movie `Idiocracy' is a genius with great foresight. As the Russians invade Ukraine and ISIS storms across the Middle East ... we're focused on the president's suit."

Obama offered a tongue-in-cheek defense of his wardrobe during a fundraiser Friday in Rhode Island.

"I kinda liked that suit yesterday," he said. "You cling to every last bit of summer that you can."

It wasn't the first fashion flurry for Obama. Granted he's the first president who's spent his entire two terms in the grips of fast-moving social media. Back in 2009, before Twitter, Facebook and other platforms were the meme beasts they are today, Obama was panned for wearing "mom jeans" when he threw the first pitch at the All-Star Game.

The message of the suit, Cisneros said, was that of the "everyman, more at the bottom of the totem pole, more of, `I'm a team player, not the leader.'"

In Washington, Cisneros said, power is perception, vitality, presence. For a social occasion or a vacation, the light tan suit would have been perfect for the president, she added.

"Wear your beige suit in the Hamptons. It's summer time. It's your vacation," she said. "If it's a social event, lovely. We're not listening to you. We're looking at how nice you look."

After injury, Kings of Leon ready for stage

NEW YORK (AP)—A brotherly reunion is coming to the City of Brotherly Love: Family band Kings of Leon will play its first show Sunday in Philadelphia since drummer Nathan Followill injured his ribs.

The group will headline the second night of the "Budweiser Made In America" festival on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Kanye West and Steve Aoki will perform on the first night of the two-day festival over Labor Day weekend.

Kings of Leon lead singer Caleb Followill said in an interview Friday that his younger brother is "doing good" since he broke his ribs after the band's tour bus driver was forced to stop short when a pedestrian crossed the street in front of the vehicle.

"He has this protective gear that he's wearing that's there to help him," Caleb said. "(On Thursday), we went in (to rehearsal) and we kind of loosened up a little bit, played five or six songs. (On Friday), we went in and played more, but by the end of it he was definitely tired."

The band includes youngest brother Jared Followill, who plays bass, and cousin Matthew Followill, who plays guitar. They cancelled two weeks of shows after the Aug. 9 incident and were set to mark a comeback on Thursday, but decided to postpone more shows.

"Hopefully he continues to heal," Caleb said. "We're going to throw a long set at him this weekend so he better bring his A-game, otherwise you're going to have a three-piece up there with no drums."

Following the Jay Z-curated festival, the Grammy-winning band will play 16 shows before their U.S. tour wraps Oct. 5 in Irvine, California. They've surprised each of the audiences on the current tour by playing an older song they hadn't performed live in years, or a cover. They sang Robyn's cult hit "Dancing On My Own" at Lollapalooza this summer.

Caleb laughs when asked if the group would perform a Jay Z song Sunday: "That would be a first for us."

"I was online looking up all the artists that have come from Philadelphia," he said of potential covers. "There's quite a well of talent that has come out of that city."

Sunday's line-up in Philadelphia will also include Pharrell, Tiesto and Girl Talk. The festival, in its third year, will also play in Los Angeles over the weekend for the first time. Imagine Dragons will headline Saturday, and West will switch coasts to play Sunday.

Kings of Leon had its musical breakthrough in 2009 when the rock song "Use Somebody" crossed over to the pop charts and won three Grammy Awards, including record of the year. They released their sixth album, "Mechanical Bull," last year, and Caleb said he's been itching to write new songs.

"I am very excited for the future," he said. "I think we'll really go in there and write some songs we're proud of, but at the same time, I'm ready to get back on the radio, so I want to write some hits."

'Halo' makers shed light on live-action series

SEATTLE (AP)—"Halo: Nightfall" is returning to familiar territory.

The overseers of the popular franchise at 343 Industries announced Saturday at the PAX Prime gaming convention that the upcoming live-action "Halo" series would take place on a surviving fragment of the Alpha Ring, the intergalactic locale from the original "Halo: Combat Evolved" sci-fi shooter.

"Our director, Sergio Mimica-Gezzan, felt really strongly that he wanted the setting to be a character," executive producer Kiki Wolfkill told hundreds of fans gathered inside Seattle's Benaroya Hall.

Following the destruction of the Alpha Ring at the end of "Halo" by series protagonist Master Chief, the fragment now orbits an unidentified sun, making the surface inhospitable for several hours a day.

"We really dug into how this fragment ended up there," Wolfkill said.

The live-action series takes place between the video games "Halo 4" and "Halo 5: Guardians," which is set for release next year exclusively on the Xbox One console from Microsoft Corp. "Nightfall" centers on agent Jameson Locke, who is portrayed by Mike Colter and will be a playable character in "Halo 5."

The multi-part film will be released this year ahead of a live-action "Halo" TV series that will be produced by Steven Spielberg. The untitled show is scheduled to debut next year on Microsoft's Xbox Live service, as well as the Showtime network.

During this weekend's PAX Prime panel, the developers also teased more details about "Halo: The Master Chief Collection," which will bring four previous "Halo" installments to the next-generation Xbox One console alongside "Nightfall" on Nov. 11.

"Halo" audio director Paul Lipson played new tracks from Misha Mansoor and Steve Vai that will be part of a remastered edition of "Halo 2."

"It just wouldn't be `Halo 2' without a guitar legend," Lipson said.

Saturday's panel kicked off with a surprise marriage proposal: a man dressed in a comical "Mister" Chief costume kneeled down on one knee and asked a woman in "Halo: ODST" armor to marry him. She had to remove her gauntlet to put on the ring.

PAX Prime, a four-day, fan-centric celebration of gaming, continues through Monday with game previews, contests, tournaments and panels.

Longtime personal chef to Obama weds MSNBC host

POCANTICO HILLS, N.Y. (AP)—President Barack Obama on Saturday temporarily set aside the pressures of trying to calm the world's trouble spots and assumed the role of spectator for something more joyous: the wedding of the Obama family's longtime chef and friend.

Chef Sam Kass and MSNBC host Alex Wagner were tying the knot at Blue Hill at Stone Barns, a farm-to-table restaurant in Pocantico Hills, just north of New York City.

Obama and Kass have a close relationship, which Obama highlighted earlier this month by spending several hours at dinner at Kass' apartment amid the turmoil in Iraq, Ukraine and Ferguson, Missouri.

It's long been said that time is a president's most precious commodity. That Obama would spend five hours at Kass' home on one of the aide's final evenings as a bachelor was a testament to their bond.

Obama's rounds of golf are often his only other outings that last as long—and those games sometimes include Kass.

Obama, his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Malia and Sasha, attended the ceremony and reception at the restaurant, which is a favorite of both Kass and Mrs. Obama. The first lady hosted the spouses of world leaders there in 2010.

Obama wore a dark suit, and Mrs. Obama and their daughters each wore sleeveless black dresses. The first family spent about six hours at the wedding. Obama had no known role, other than to give his best to the bride and groom.

This photo taken Aug. 30, 2010, shows then Assistant White House Chef Sam Kass weighing sweet potatoes during the White House Kitchen Garden Fall Harvest with first lady Michelle Obama and students (not shown) in Washington.

The union of Kass, 34, and Wagner, 36, also served to highlight what some contend is too much togetherness between the media and the people they report on. Naturally, the guest list was expected to include staff from both the White House and the liberal-leaning cable news outlet, with people from both sides breaking bread at the same dinner table.

Kass began preparing meals for the Obamas when the family lived in Chicago and the Obama as persuaded him to join them at the White House. He is now among the Obamas' longest-serving aides.

Besides preparing the family's meals most weeknights, Kass also serves as senior nutrition policy adviser and executive director of the first lady's anti-childhood obesity initiative.

It's not unusual for presidents, including Obama, to attend or participate in weddings.

Day care operator needs a timeout for her mouth

DEAR ABBY: My neighbor has a registered day care business, and every day I hear her screaming at young children and infants. They are all 4-year-olds and younger. We live in a rural area outside a small town. She uses profanity and says mean things to them. It makes me want to cry when I think of how scared those kids must be.

Who do I contact with this information? I could record her with my phone if evidence was needed to shut down her business. This woman has a really bad anger management problem. She also knows I can hear her because we have spoken about how our voices travel.

I don't think she is being physically abusive, but her words must be damaging to those kids. Please help me find someone to tell. I'm afraid the local police won't be able to do anything. I can't even take my own child in our backyard because she swears so much.

DAY CARE DRAMA IN INDIANA

DEAR D.C.D.: Ideally, you should try to tell the parents what you have been hearing because they should be aware that their trusted caregiver loses control of her emotions and takes out her frustrations on their children. If the situation is as ugly as you describe, those kids must be terrified of her.

If that's not possible, Child Protective Services should be notified because the environment is not emotionally healthy for little children.

P.S. By the age of 4, children usually have started to repeat the language they hear around them. I'm surprised these parents haven't noticed the change in their vocabulary and questioned their little ones about where they heard those "bad words." Nonetheless, on the chance that the parents are clueless, what you have observed should be reported.

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend, a contractor working for the U.S. government, who thinks he's in love with a Ukrainian girl. The pay is really good. He recently came back from a visit to see this "girlfriend."

He has been sending this girl almost all his money for the last nine months. He was never alone with her, and she showed no emotional or physical attraction to him. In fact, a male friend of hers asked him for $800 to give as a bribe so he wouldn't be drafted into the Ukrainian military. We believe this male friend is, in fact, the girl's real boyfriend.

My friend paid $300 to send flowers to her for their nine-month anniversary, for which she expressed no thanks or appreciation. What advice can you provide us here?

FRIEND IN AFGHANISTAN

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

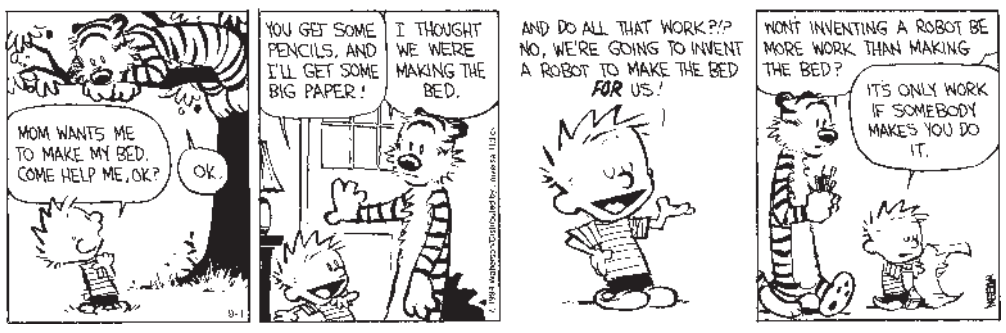
DEAR FRIEND: Your friend's "romance" seems suspicious to me, too. That he is giving all his money to someone who appears to be so emotionally distant is worrisome. I also have to doubt that $800 would keep an able-bodied man from being drafted into the Ukrainian military since the country is now involved in military conflict. It appears your friend is being treated more like an ATM than a suitor, but he may have to arrive at that realization on his own.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

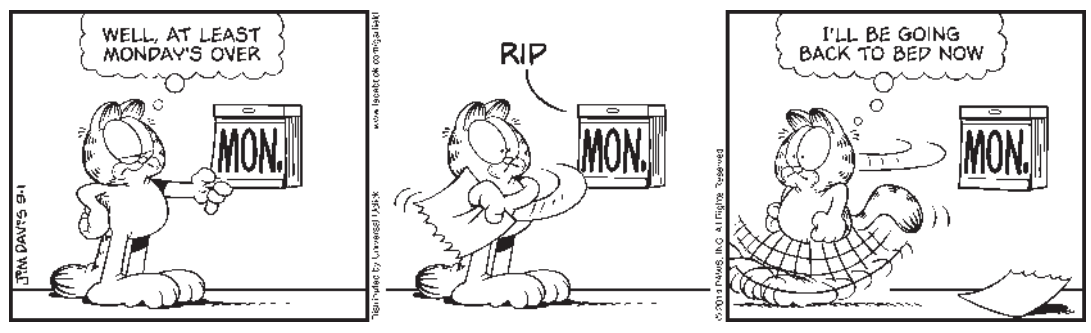
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOM WANTS ME TO MAKE MY BED. COME HELP ME, OK?
OK.
YOU GET SOME PENCILS, AND I'LL GET SOME BIG PAPER!
I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING THE BED.
AND DO ALL THAT WORK?!?
NO, WE'RE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED FOR US!
WON'T INVENTING A ROBOT BE MORE WORK THAN MAKING THE BED?
IT'S ONLY WORK IF SOMEBODY MAKES YOU DO IT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, I'VE SET MY NOVEL ASIDE AND STARTED A NEW ONE.
REALLY?
YEP. A MURDER MYSTERY.
I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT I LOVE TO READ. MAYBE I SHOULD BE A MYSTERY WRITER.
OH, YOU'RE A MYSTERY.
SO I BROKE OUT MY PIPE AND GOT TO WRITING.
I DON'T THINK SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE USED A CANDY PIPE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hi. I'm Here To Drop Off Your Weekly Supply Of Girl Scout Cookies.
What Happened To The Girl Who Used To Sell Me Cookies?
She Retired And Bought An Island In The Bahamas.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

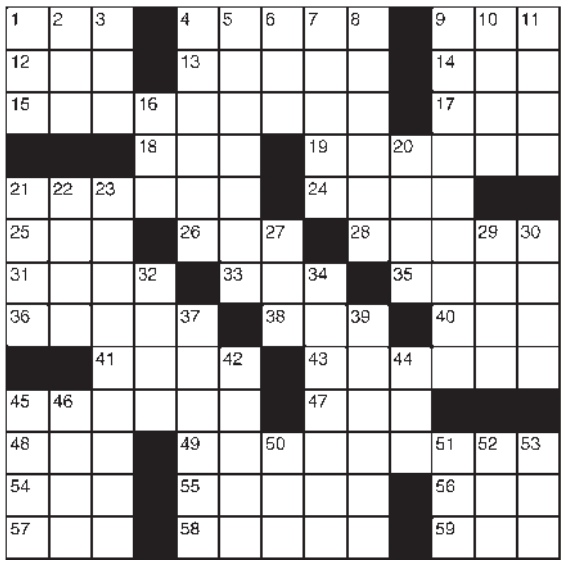
ACROSS
1 Pop
4 Group of eight
9 Grafton's "— for Corpse"
12 Praise in verse
13 Bow or Barton
14 Discoverer's cry
15 Beef
17 1-Across' partner
18 Parcel of land
19 Treeless plain
21 Boil down
24 Agenda heading
25 Past
26 Small barrel
28 Desert refuge
31 Cupola
33 They're between dos and mis
35 Swampy ground
36 Jellied entree
38 "I'm not impressed"
40 Twitch
41 Seed coating
43 Humble
45 Moolah
47 — bind
48 Blackbird
49 Summaries
54 Altar affirmative
55 There's great interest in it
56 Performance
57 Wd. from Roget
58 Some lilies
59 "See ya"

DOWN
1 "What's up, —?"
2 Big bother
3 Rep.'s rival
4 Timely contraction?
5 Din
6 Mai —
7 Artist Max
8 Body art
9 Made of many parts
10 Restaurant acronym
11 A few
16 Arafat's old org.
20 Cheese choice
21 Arp's style
22 Hollywood clashers
23 Mate
27 Jewel
29 Eye part
30 Denomination
32 Hibernia
34 Part-time athlete
37 Barnum & Bailey presentation
39 Sweethearts
42 Slack
44 Rather or Marino
45 Speaker's platform
46 Race place
50 Coffee holder
51 Slight touch
52 Unfriendly
53 Consumed

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	M	P		C	A	M		S	T	E	V	E
T	A	U		O	V	A		O	U	T	E	R
T	N	T		C	O	N	J	U	G	A	T	E
A	N	.		S	W	O	O	P				
R	A	N	D		E	R	A		A	F	A	R
			A	C	D		N	E	G	A	T	E
U	P	E	N	D				B	A	I	E	S
.	E	G	A	¯	E		F	B	I			
T	A	O	S		M	B	A		N	E	S	T
			B	A	L	_	S		N	E	O	
P	R	O	P	A	G	A	T	E		V	A	T
R	E	N	A	L		S	E	A		O	L	E
O	B	E	S	E		E	R	R		I	S	M

Friday's answer 9-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gloria Estefan, 57; Phil McGraw, 64; Barry Gibb, 68; Lily Tomlin, 75.

Happy Birthday: Put your experience, wisdom and dedication to the test this year. Talk about your thoughts and ideas with passion and be ready to defend your position and make a difference. Problems with authority figures are likely to manifest, and choosing your battles wisely can lead to making an important difference to you and the people and things you value. Your numbers are 7, 10, 21, 28, 34, 47, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Impulsiveness will lead to all sorts of problems. Protect against insult or injury. Focus on personal challenges and being the best that you can be. Love is on the rise and an important decision coupled with romance will improve your future. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Listen and exhibit tolerance and patience. Size up what's going on and give a practical, detailed assessment and look at viable solutions. Refuse to let a personal matter turn into a costly venture. Don't give in to emotional blackmail. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look for opportunities that allow you to advance your creative endeavors, but not at the expense of finishing jobs that pay the bills. Gauge your time wisely and keep your plans a secret to avoid interference until your presentation is flawless. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Look for practical ways to increase the value of your assets, property or possessions. Think emotional matters through and deal with each issue separately. Someone may not share your opinion, but that doesn't mean you should compromise your beliefs or plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Keep your head down and stay focused on the tasks you've been given. Don't be daunted by a challenge when all that's required is a little thought, coupled with compassion, to come up with a workable solution. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do whatever it takes to help others. Investigate your options and bring about change that will benefit others as well. Get involved in your community if it will help you make a difference to your environment or the services offered. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Being taken for granted or doing too much for others will leave you feeling uncertain and emotional regarding your relationships. Change may be required in order to bring greater equality to any partnership you are involved in. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a step back and re-evaluate your options before letting things get blown out of proportion. Nothing is as bad as it seems, and remaining even-keeled and taking a practical approach to whatever happens will benefit you in the end. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely, but make sure you know exactly where you stand before you go on a spending spree. Love is on the rise and changes in the way you live look positive. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will attract the interest of people as determined as you are to get things done. Look for unusual ways to multiply your assets and financial intake, but don't be tempted by someone pressuring you to take part in a risky venture. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't share your secrets. Look for opportunities that will allow you to use your skills in order to earn more money. A partnership will undergo a positive change. Protect against minor mishaps and injury. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Rethink what you have experienced in the past and you will find a way to integrate what worked for you in the past into a plan you want to pursue in the future. Put your ideas on paper and research the possibilities. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are loyal, trustworthy and helpful. You are anxious and unwavering.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5	3		9		4	
4			2			3		5
	3							7
6			1		7		3	8
				5				
7	9		8		6			1
5							8	
2		8			4			6
	6		9		8	5	2	

Difficulty Level ★ 9/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	4	6	5	7	1	3	9
5	9	7	4	3	1	6	2	8
3	6	1	2	9	8	5	7	4
6	4	5	9	7	2	3	8	1
7	3	9	8	1	5	2	4	6
2	1	8	3	6	4	7	9	5
4	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	7
9	5	6	7	8	3	4	1	2
1	7	2	5	4	9	8	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ROBIN WILLIAMS (1951-2014) **Solution: 11 letters**

S	M	E	I	H	U	N	T	I	N	G	E	N	I	E
L	U	K	C	A	J	Y	N	N	A	N	B	S	G	V
A	E	G	N	I	K	R	E	H	S	I	F	E	A	E
U	Ⓢ	G	I	M	O	E	Z	T	R	N	E	K	M	E
G	U	Ⓨ	E	F	I	V	A	D	N	R	E	O	E	R
H	M	R	Ⓞ	N	T	N	C	I	I	O	T	J	S	E
I	A	E	H	Ⓣ	D	A	D	F	G	M	E	U	M	H
N	N	B	D	U	G	D	T	Y	H	D	G	M	A	P
Z	T	B	P	E	A	B	V	Z	T	O	E	A	D	O
S	E	U	A	L	U	A	A	Y	O	O	Y	N	A	T
U	I	L	A	O	L	C	D	D	E	G	E	J	H	S
S	V	F	D	E	H	E	W	G	O	Y	P	I	C	I
A	H	S	R	A	M	I	A	R	Y	D	O	C	T	R
N	R	I	R	O	L	T	E	E	F	Y	P	P	A	H
M	E	Y	C	L	S	H	O	O	K	R	O	M	P	C

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Aladdin, Birdcage, Christopher, Cody, Comedy, Fisher King, Flubber, Games, Genie, Gift, Good Morning, Good Will, Happy Feet, Hero, Hook, Hunting, Jack, Jokes, Jumanji, Laugh In, Legend, Marsha, Mindy, Mork, Mrs. Doubtfire, Museum, Nanny, Night, Patch Adams, Popeye, Reeve, Stage, Stand Up, Susan, Toys, Valerie, Vietnam, Voice, Zachary, Zelda

Last Friday's Answer: Entertain

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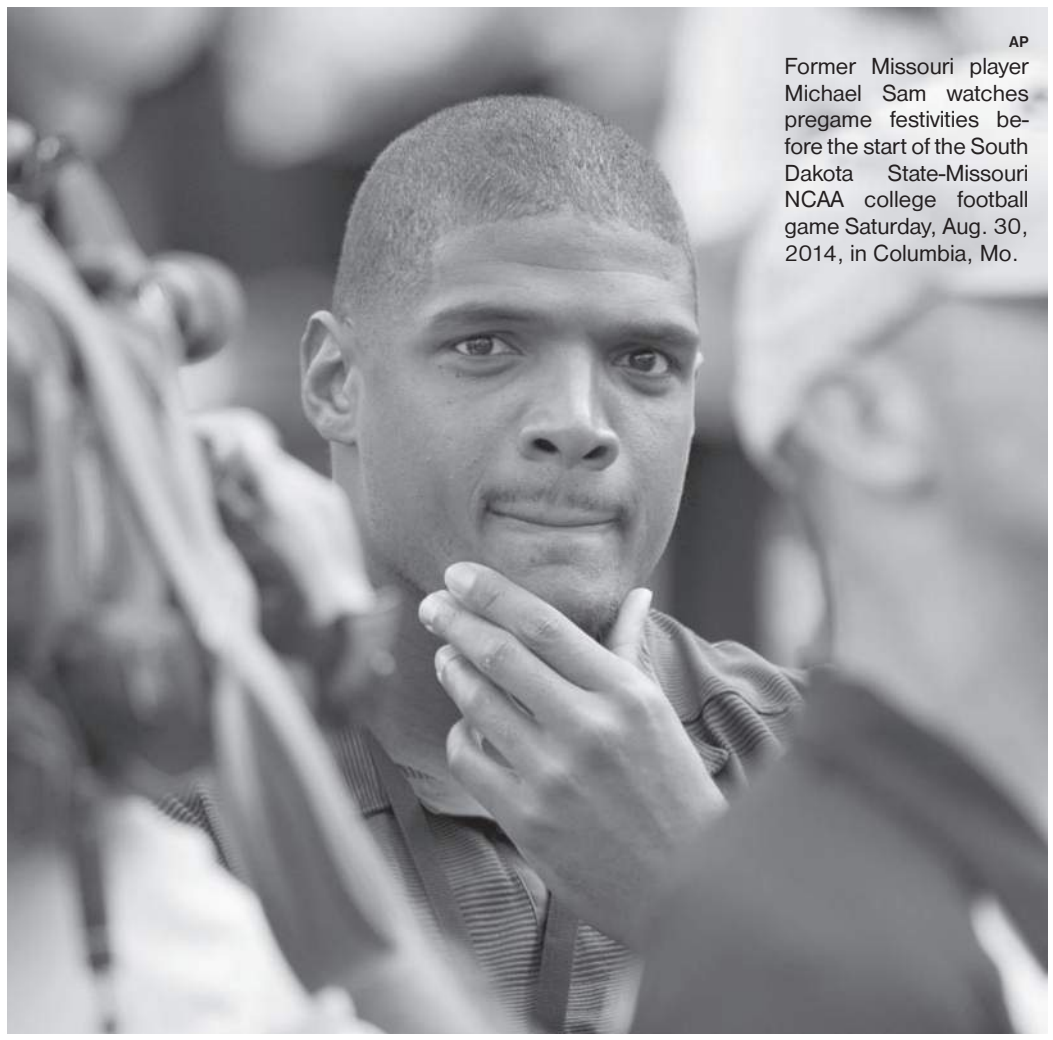
Champ Bailey, Michael Sam among NFL cuts

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



AP
Former Missouri player Michael Sam watches pregame festivities before the start of the South Dakota State-Missouri NCAA college football game Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014, in Columbia, Mo.

For the first time in his career, Champ Bailey was told he isn't good enough.

Jettisoned by the New Orleans Saints after a difficult training camp, the 12-time Pro Bowl cornerback was the most notable name when NFL teams trimmed their rosters to 53 active players Saturday.

A close second was Rams rookie Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted by an NFL team.

The seventh-round draft pick, watched as closely as any rookie in the league this summer, couldn't make a team stacked with pass-rushers. He still has a chance to get picked up by another team or to make the Rams' practice squad.

Coach Jeff Fisher repeated over and over that cutting Sam was purely a football decision.

"I will tell you this: I was pulling for Mike," Fisher said. "I really was, and I don't say that very often. Mike came in here and did everything we asked him to do."

On Twitter, roughly an hour after he was cut, Sam wrote: "The most worthwhile things in life rarely come easy, this is a lesson I've always known. The journey continues."

He also thanked the Rams and city of St. Louis on Twitter, adding that he looks forward to a long and successful career.

The Rams selected Sam, the SEC co-defensive player of the year at Missouri, with the 249th overall pick out of 256 overall. Fisher called the draft pick a "second historic moment" for a franchise that signed running back Kenny Washington in 1946 as the league's first black player in the modern era.

Ultimately, he wasn't good enough to make the Rams' roster.

Generally, players such as Sam with fewer than four seasons in the league are subject to waivers. Those who clear waivers and have practice squad eligibility can sign Sunday when teams fill out their 10-member developmental units.

Vested veterans who were released this weekend are free agents who can sign with anybody. But some might have to wait to get scooped up because their full 2014 salaries are in effect guaranteed if they're on a roster in Week 1.

It just might be the end of a stellar career for Bailey, who said after the Super Bowl that he wouldn't retire "because I still know I can play this game."

Only seven players in NFL history have more Pro Bowl selections than Bailey, who signed with the Saints following his release from the Denver Broncos in the spring only to spend much of training camp dealing with nagging injuries.

"Well, whatever happens to him now in the short term is not going to change his legacy," Broncos GM John Elway said. "He's still going to go down as one of the greatest corners to ever play the game and will always in our minds be a Denver Bronco."

Bailey missed 11 games last season after hurting his left foot in the preseason. He returned for Denver's stretch run and reached his first Super Bowl, but clearly wasn't the same player.

In his prime, Bailey wasn't often challenged by quarterbacks yet he still managed 52 interceptions, more than any active cornerback.

Elway said it was difficult to let Bailey go this offseason as he retooled his defense following Denver's Super Bowl dud against Seattle.

Elway also dreads cutdown day. "Today is obviously the toughest part of my job," Elway said. "It's hard breaking dreams."

Among the players he dismissed Saturday was nine-year defensive tackle Kevin Vickerson, who started 25 games for the defending AFC champs over the past two seasons.

Vickerson was beaten out by Marvin Austin, the latest veteran whom Elway signed to a one-year, no-bonus deal for a shot at resurrecting his career with the Peyton Manning-led Broncos.

Elway also cut third-year safety Duke Ihenacho, who was the odd-man out in a crowded defensive backfield featuring free agent acquisition T.J. Ward.

Other notable players who were either waived or released this weekend, depending in their experience level, included:

■ Jets WR Stephen Hill, a 2012 second-round draft pick out of Georgia Tech who failed to follow in the footsteps of fellow alumni Demaryius Thomas and Calvin Johnson. He finished the past two seasons in IR.

■ Bengals RB BenJarvus Green-Ellis, the team's top rusher the past two seasons who was made expendable when the team drafted LSU's Jeremy Hill in the second round.

■ Browns WR Nate Burleson, an 11-year veteran who was slowed by a hamstring injury in camp. The Browns are thin at wide receiver after Pro Bowler Josh Gordon was suspended for the entire 2014 season for another violation of the league's substance-abuse policy.

■ Jets CB Dimitri Patterson, ending a bizarre week that began when he left the team before its preseason game against the Giants on Aug. 22, leading to a suspension.

■ Saints Ks Shayne Graham and Derek Dimke. The Saints did not immediately indicate what their intentions were at kicker after cutting both the veteran Graham and the rookie Dimke. But they could have in mind one of a number of proven kickers cut by other clubs, including Ryan Succop, who was cut by Kansas City, or Jay Feely, recently cut by the Cardinals.

Grandal's 12th-inning single beats Dodgers

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Yasmani Grandal singled in the winning run with two outs in the 12th inning and the San Diego Padres beat the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2 Friday night.

Earlier in the inning, the Dodgers used a five-man infield and then a four-man shift.

With runners on second and third and a 1-1 count to Abraham Almonte, the Dodgers brought in center fielder Andre Ethier to play first base, with Adrian Gonzalez playing between first and second. Almonte walked.

Against a four-man shift—all on the right side of the infield—left-handed hitter Seth Smith grounded to second baseman Dee Gordon, who forced Alexi Amarista at home.

Angels 4, Athletics 0

In Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver outpitched Jon Lester, Albert Pujols hit his 516th career homer and the Angels extended their AL West lead over Oakland to three games.

A night after the Angels edged the Athletics 4-3 in 10 innings, they won with pitching and power.

Chris Iannetta hit a two-run shot despite a valiant effort by center fielder Coco Crisp, making it 2-0 in the fifth, and that was enough for Weaver and the bullpen.

Indians 6, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Carlos Santana hit a two-run homer to help the Indians to their fifth win in six games.

Santana connected in the ninth inning for his 22nd home run. He homered five times at Kauffman Stadium in a series last month.

Kansas City's lead in the AL Central was cut to a half-game over Detroit, which won 7-1 at the White Sox.

Giants 13, Brewers 2

In San Francico, Buster Posey went 5 for 5 and drove in three runs in just six innings, then was pulled early as the Giants earned fourth straight win.

Posey had a triple in his second career five-hit game. The star catcher is batting .500 (20 for 40) with five home runs and 13 RBIs in his past nine games.

Gregor Blanco hit a two-run homer to back Ryan Vogelsong's first victory in four starts. The Giants scored a season high in runs and have their longest winning streak since five straight victories in early June.

Nationals 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Anthony Rendon hit one of Washington's four homers off Felix Hernandez, and the Nationals showed off their power while snapping a three-game losing streak.

Rendon hit a solo shot in the first, and Jayson Werth, Ian Desmond and Wilson Ramos also connected against Hernandez (13-5). It was the first time Hernandez has allowed four homers in a game.

Pirates 2, Reds 1

In Pittsburgh, Josh Harrison hit an RBI triple and scored on Jose Tabata's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning, leading Pittsburgh to the win.

Harrison had three hits in the Pirates' sixth win in eight games. Tabata, starting in right field for the injured Travis Snider, finished with two hits.

Pirates starter Edinson Volquez was working on a no-hitter before Devin Mesoraco's leadoff single in the seventh. He was charged with one run and three hits in 7 2-3 innings.

Orioles 9, Twins 1

In Baltimore, Chris Davis hit his fourth career grand slam, and Baltimore got a dominating pitching performance from Miguel Gonzalez.

Delmon Young also homered for the AL East-leading Orioles, who built an 8-0 lead in the fifth inning against rookie Trevor May (0-4).

Baltimore's fourth win in five games was marred by an injury to first baseman Steve Pearce, who left with a right abdominal strain.

Tigers 7, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Justin Verlander pitched seven solid innings, and the contending Tigers won for the fifth time in six games.

Verlander (12-11) matched his season high with eight strikeouts. He allowed one run and nine hits while improving to 14-4 with a 2.94 ERA in his last 19 starts against Chicago.

The White Sox have lost nine of 10.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Jacoby Ellsbury and Chase Headley homered, leading the Yankees to the win.

Chris Capuano (2-3) pitched 6 1-3 innings in his first win in seven starts since joining New York. The veteran left-hander, who was acquired last month in a trade with Colorado, allowed three runs, two earned, and eight hits.

David Robertson got the final four outs for his 35th save in 38 chances.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Jorge Soler hit two homers for the Cubs, and fellow rookie Javier Baez had a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning off All-Star reliever Pat Neshek.

The Cardinals lost in the return of Yadier Molina. The All-Star catcher, who had been sidelined by a torn ligament in his right thumb, and went 0 for 3 and was hit by a pitch.

The crowd at Busch Stadium gave Molina a standing ovation when he walked in from the bullpen after pregame warmups, and another cheer before he batted in the first inning.

Red Sox 8, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Florida, rookie Mookie Betts hit his first career grand slam and Anthony Ranaudo pitched six effective innings, leading Boston to the road win.

After Yoenis Cespedes drove in his second run of the game with a double, Betts connected off Chris Archer (8-7) to cap a five-run second inning that made it 8-0.

Rangers 13, Astros 6

In Houston, Michael Choice and Rougned Odor each hit a three-run homer, powering Texas to the win.

The Rangers were up by two in the fourth inning when Choice launched his ninth home run into the Crawford Boxes in left field. Odor connected in a five-run seventh inning with a shot to the seats in right field.

Mets 4, Phillies 1

In New York, Jacob deGrom pitched seven crisp innings and the Mets scored the tiebreaking runs when left fielder Grady Sizemore dropped an easy pop fly.

Eric Campbell stole home on a double steal, helping the Mets stay out of the NL East cellar with their 12th victory in 17 games against Philadelphia this year.

The Phillies had won four straight and six of seven. A victory in the series opener would have pushed last-place Philadelphia past New York, but Sizemore's two-out error with the bases loaded in the seventh cost them.

Isner loses to Kohlschreiber in US Open 3rd round

NEW YORK (AP)—Once again, John Isner's trip to Flushing Meadows ended in the third round. Once again, it happened with a loss to Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber at that stage.

And once again, there are zero American men in the U.S. Open's round of 16—something that had never happened until it did last year at the country's tennis championship, which was first played in 1881.

On a windy, cloudy evening, the 13th-seeded Isner hit 42 aces, saved all five break points he faced—and yet it wasn't enough. Unable to capitalize on plenty of openings, and surprisingly outplayed in a trio of tiebreakers, Isner lost to the 22nd-seeded Kohlschreiber 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4).

"It's disappointing for me personally—not for America as a whole," Isner said.

It was the third straight year that these two men faced each other in the third round in New York, and Kohlschreiber won them all. He eliminated the big-serving, 6-foot-10 Isner in five sets in 2012, and in four sets in 2013.

Isner only converted 1 of 12 break points he accumulated.

"Got a little tight, to be honest, and didn't move my feet on some points that I really needed," Isner said, resting his chin on his left fist. "I had chances. I just didn't convert."

The 29-year-old Isner is best known for winning the longest match in tennis history, an 11-plus-hour marathon spread over three days that ended 70-68 in the fifth set at Wimbledon in 2010.

Currently, he is the only U.S. man ranked inside the top 45, and has made clear he does not necessarily enjoy that distinction.

Fans at Louis Armstrong Stadium tried to boost their guy with chants of "Let's go, John!" And they roared throughout the fourth set, especially when Isner would edge ahead within a game.

But this one mainly came down to the tiebreakers, usually a strong suit for Isner: He entered the day 37-17 in those set-deciders this season, while Kohlschreiber was only 9-11.

"He was just better," Isner said. "I've got to be better. I know I can be. Just not showing it."

Earlier Saturday, 57th-ranked Sam Querrey—entering the day, the only other man from the host country remaining of the 12 originally in the draw—put up little resistance while bowing out against No. 1 Novak Djokovic 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Kohlschreiber now will face seven-time major champion Djokovic in the fourth round.

Other fourth-round matchups: No. 3 Stan Wawrinka, the Australian Open champion, against No. 16 Tommy Robredo, who beat 19-year-old Nick Kyrgios 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3 in a match that ended after 12:30 a.m. Sunday; 2012 U.S. Open champion Andy Murray against No. 9 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga; No. 5 Milos Raonic against No. 10 Kei Nishikori. Wawrinka advanced when Blaz Kavcic withdrew because of pain in his right foot.

Given Isner's history against Kohlschreiber at the U.S. Open, it's tough to call that result surprising, even if the American is ranked higher and is 4-0 against the German everywhere else they've played.

Instead, look to the women for the "Did that really happen?" results. In the latest of a series of stunners, third-seeded Petra Kvitova—who won her second Wimbledon title last month—was sent home with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat against Aleksandra Krunic, a 21-year-old qualifier from Serbia who is ranked 145th.

That means that the women seeded 2, 3 and 4 behind No. 1 Serena Williams are all gone before the end of Week 1.

"I'm an outsider," Krunic said. "I honestly didn't know what to expect from myself at all. You know, I don't know my limits."

Of the top eight women, only Williams, No. 5 Maria Sharapova and No. 7 Eugenie Bouchard remain. Bouchard, the runner-up to Kvitova at Wimbledon, reached the fourth round at the U.S. Open for the first time by beating 30th-seeded Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-2, 6-7 (2), 6-4.

Williams, the two-time defending champion, is the last American singles player left; there were 17 in the women's draw, and she's beaten three, including a 6-3, 6-3 victory against 2012 Olympic teammate and occasional practice partner Varvara Lepchenko.

Williams meets 50th-ranked Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, who knocked out No. 15 Carla Suarez Navarro 7-5, 6-0. Other women's fourth-round matchups: Bouchard against No. 17 Ekaterina Makarova, No. 11 Flavia Pennetta against No. 29 Casey Dellacqua, and Krunic against two-time U.S. Open runner-up Victoria Azarenka.

It's been an unusually difficult Grand Slam season for Williams, who lost before the quarterfinals at each of the year's first three majors. When a reporter asked whether it was important to get to the second week at the U.S. Open, Williams replied: "I mean, I can't believe I'm in the second week. It's like a dream come true for m at this point."

And to a follow-up question about why Williams couldn't believe it, she replied: "I'm being sarcastic."

AP

John Isner, of the United States, follows through on a shot against Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, during the third round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014, in New York.

US dominates Finland 114-55 in basketball worlds

BILBAO, Spain (AP)—As the U.S. lead got bigger and the crowd quieter, Finland's players were forced to have a most uncomfortable conversation.

"We kind of talked a little on the bench a little bit, `Hey, everybody remember when we scored the last time?'" forward Kimmo Muurinen said.

It was a long time. Almost an entire quarter.

The Americans held the Finns without a basket in the second quarter, opening defense of their title with a 114-55 romp Saturday in the Basketball World Cup.

Silencing the Finns in the second quarter on the scoreboard and in the stands, where their rabid fans filled an entire side of the arena, the Americans allowed just a pair of free throws in the period, outscoring their overmatched opponents 29-2 to open a 60-18 advantage.

The U.S. players also knew they were basically pitching a shutout for 10 minutes.

"Our coaches were encouraging us to keep up that effort by telling us every timeout, every dead ball, they only had two points or whatever," guard Stephen Curry said. "That's just motivation to keep doing what we're doing."

Klay Thompson scored 18 points and Anthony Davis had 17 for the U.S., which will play Turkey on Sunday in a rematch of the 2010 world basketball championship gold-medal game.

The event has since been renamed, but nothing else looks different for the Americans, who won their 55th straight game.

Finland was 0 for 17 in the second quarter, missing all six 3-point attempts, and missed 19 straight shots over the second and third quarters before Tuukka Kotta ended the drought with a basket with 8:48 remaining in the third that made it 62-20.

"Our entire team, the challenge is to see how good we can become in all areas," U.S. assistant Tom Thibodeau said. "They spread you out and they can attack and they can shoot. Our ball pressure was very good and challenging shots was great, so it was a terrific quarter."

The Finns were making their World Cup debut as a wild card and didn't do much to prove they deserved it after the opening minutes. They missed all 13 3-point attempts in the first half but finally saw some shots fall after halftime when the game was long decided, giving their expected 8,000 fans who traveled here the chance to cheer.

The Americans played just four exhibition games and their players average just over 24 years of age, the youngest team they've ever sent using professionals.

No problem against the Finns, where their size and athletic advantages made it look like men against boys.

And even if they draw host Spain in Madrid on Sept. 14 in the championship game, they wouldn't face a crowd that was much louder than this.

Fans wearing Finnish blue and white were pouring out of the exits of the metro station outside the arena by the dozens more than two hours before the start, looking like college football alums arriving for a Saturday morning tailgate.

They filled nearly every seat behind one of the baskets, cheering loudly from warmups straight through the opening minutes, when Gerald Lee made the game's first basket.

"It was awesome," Curry said. "They were energetic regardless of the score. Seemed like every basket Finland made was like a game-winner."

There just weren't many of them.

Lee had Finland's next bucket to tie it at 4 but then picked up a third foul just over 2 minutes into the game and had to go to the bench, leaving the Finns with nobody who could compete in the paint.

It was 31-16 after one, but after Teemu Rannikko's free throws cut it to 39-18 with about 6 1/2 minutes remaining, the U.S. scored the final 21 points of the half, forcing a missed shot on defense, then running out for a layup.

Every U.S. player scored. Derrick Rose finished with 12 points and Rudy Gay had 10 as the Americans shot 59 percent from the field.

Finland finished just ninth in last year's European championship, failing to qualify automatically for the World Cup. But the Finns, ranked 39th, became the lowest-ranked team ever to receive a wild card, with basketball governing FIBA noting Finland's improvement on the court and the strength of its fan base.

And it didn't hurt that Finnish company Rovio, maker of the Angry Birds games, offered to provide advertising for FIBA if Finland was selected.

But none of those could help on the court, where all the best players were wearing red, white and blue and delivered highlight plays, with Rose flashing his old explosiveness with a second quarter drive and dunk.

Shawn Huff and Petteri Koponen each scored 12 points for Finland, which shot 28 percent.

'Pikaboo' to face UFC veteran in PXC 45

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez is expected to have his hands full when he goes up against Darren "Bone Crusher" Uyenoyama in Pacific Xtreme Combat 45 on Oct. 24 at the University of Guam Field House in Mangilao.

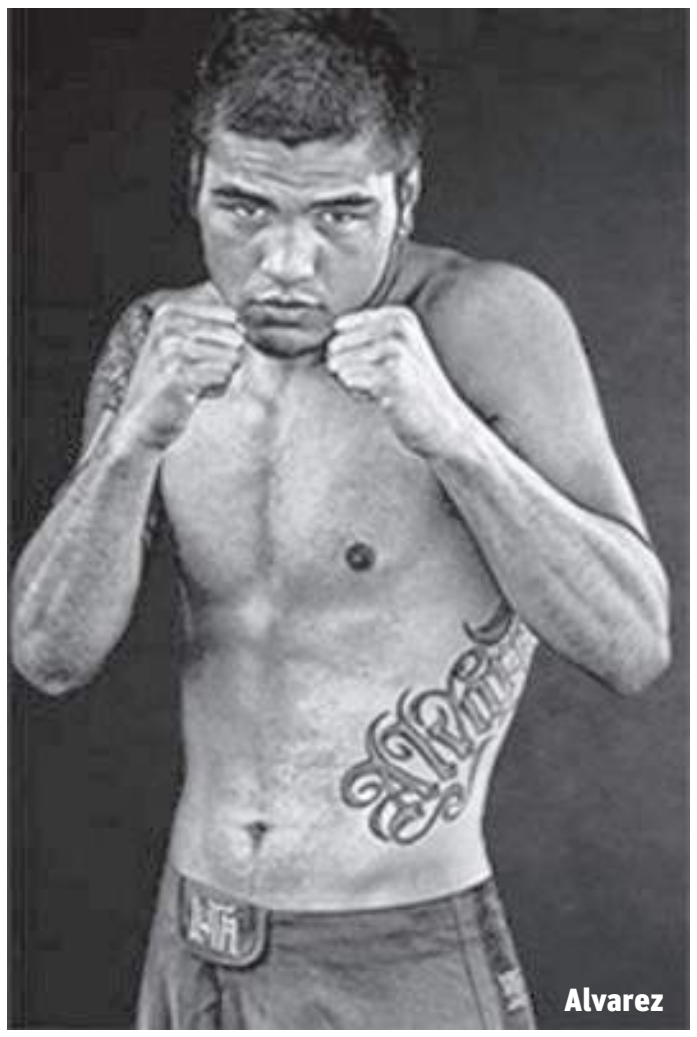
Uyenoyama, who holds an 8-5 won-loss card, is hoping to bounce back after losing two consecutive matches last year making the former Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) fighter a dangerous opponent.

Trench Tech Gym founder Cuki Alvarez said his son has been training hard for this fight and had been watching tapes of Uyenoyama's past fights to carefully study his opponents moves.

"We have our work cut out for this guy who is a veteran [mixed martial arts] and former UFC fighter. He is multi-titled in Brazilian jiu-jitsu where he also holds a black belt," said Alvarez.

Despite the odds stacked against them, the elder Alvarez remains optimistic of his chances against the 125-pound San Fancisco-based warrior.

"Win or lose, I know my son will learn a lot from this experience. But of course, we are training to win."


Alvarez

Going up against a former UFC fighter is also sort of an achievement for the younger Alvarez, who someday dreams of fighting in the UFC.

"That's Shane's ultimate goal, for him to fight in the big leagues, that is the UFC. And this opportunity will further sharpen his fighting skills and gain the experience that will help him achieve his dream," added the elder Alvarez.

Pikaboo Alvarez is fresh from scoring a split decision win over Guam's Jay Tenorio (1-1) in PXC 42 on Feb, 28 this year. It was his third straight win after losing to Robert Wusstig on Dec. 16, 2011.

He now holds a 10-1 won-loss record with three wins coming by way of knockout, three by submission and four by split decision.

With heavy heart, Kuchar hovers around the lead

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—With an orange ribbon on his hat and nine birdies on his card, Matt Kuchar pulled within a shot of the lead Saturday in the Deutsche Bank Championship. Not that he needed a reminder, but a message posted on the scoring table spoke to the emotions involved in this tournament.

Players were offered a chance to donate to a trust fund for the 4-year-old daughter of Lance Bennett, his caddie. Bennett's wife, Angela, died of a seizure Wednesday. Kuchar decided to play to raise awareness and get the tour involved in helping the family.

His performance certainly helped.

Ryan Palmer overcame a rocky start for an even-par 71. Jason Day struggled at the end for a 68. They were tied for the lead on the TPC Boston going into the third round of a FedEx Cup playoff event that ends on Labor Day.

Kuchar was a shot behind after a 66 that featured six consecutive birdies around the turn.

"You never know how things will work out in the game of golf," Kuchar said. "But it felt like there's some fate working, as well. The funeral is coming up and some things that will be difficult. But right now, I feel like there's some inspiration and some fate working."

On his bag is Brian Reed, a longtime friend who introduced Kuchar to Bennett several years ago.

Kuchar was overcome by emotion Friday when he saw caddies—and even some players—wearing a black hat with the orange ribbon in honor of Bennett's wife. There were times he had a hard time taking the club back.

Saturday was easier, which he attributes to the natural progression of grief.

"Still felt like Angela was on my mind almost every hole, every shot," Kuchar said.

The next few days might not be easy for anyone. The TPC Boston has a history of yielding low scores. Henrik Stenson won a year ago at 22-under 262, and the worst winning score since it became a FedEx Cup playoff event was 15-under 269.

That seems far off given these conditions - swirling wind and fast greens that get bumpier in the afternoon.

Palmer, who started with a 63, made birdie on his first hole and thought he was off to the races. He followed with a double bogey, a bogey and then tried to hang. A birdie on the final hole put him at 8-under 134.

Tight race seen for Thursday, Tuesday 8-ball leagues

A tight race is expected to heat up for the 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday League with the Poseidon Titans and the Jokers Homeboyz kicking off their respective title bids with victories over their separate opponents in Thursday last week.

The Titans and Homeboyz are currently tied on top of the Thursday league standings with equal 10-5 won-loss slates.

The Titans will host the Homeboyz today with both teams aiming to break the tie.

Wild Bill's Wild Wild West is one game behind (9-6) and followed closely by Smoke Pub Magic 8-Ball's 8-7 mark and the 7-8 card of National Alamo Car Rental.

Barcode Breakers (6-9) and Route33 Armatech Masters and Jonny's Team SCS (5-10 each), despite at the lower half of the standings, are still in title contention in the 14-week league that ends on Nov. 20.

The Tuesday league, meanwhile, has a three-way tie with Jokers Str8 Shooters and sister team IT&E Voyagers, and Jonnys Crazy 8 all holding 19-11 marks.

Smoke Pub Sang&D'Gang and Saipan TV Hustler are tied from second to third spots with 13-17 cards, while Smoke Pub Lanchun Girls is at the bottom of the standings at 7-23.

Tuesday League games on Sept. 2 will have the Voyagers, Lanchun Girls, and Hustlers hosting the Crazy 8, Shooters and Sang&D'Gang, respectively, in the home-and-away format. ***(Jon Perez)***

SHIRLEY'S

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and was partially blocked by Erick Dela Rosa. The ball landed on Jess Nicdao's hands after Shirley's big defensive stop and Arago elected to give up a foul on the former to stop the clock, which read at 5.4 seconds.

Shirley's went on to use its last time out to map out a play and executed it to escape with the 2-point win. The winning play started with Usi making the inbound and passing the ball to Rabasto at the top key and the latter drove to the middle and seemed headed for a pull-up jumper. However, Rabasto decided to make an extra pass to Sedillo, who was temporarily left open at the left baseline and went for a quick release, as he saw a POI player switching back on defense toward him. Sedillo's shot hit nothing but the bottom of the net, foiling POI's upset bid.

POI put on a gallant stand as it came back from a 10-27 deficit in the first quarter and managed to force a standoff for the first time, 87-all, after J.P. Villanueva made back-to-back fastbreak layups, 1:22 left in the game. A putback shot from Sedillo helped Shirley's regain the lead, 89-87, with under a minute left on the clock, but POI tied the match anew as Palacios was fouled in the ensuing play and went 2-for-2.

Sedillo tried to reclaim the lead, but his left baseline jumper rattled off the rim, paving the way for Palacios' fastbreak layup and putting POI on top. POI's hold on the lead did not last long as Rabasto nailed a shot on Shirley's second serving for only the third deadlock in the game and the top-ranked squad went on to save the win behind Sedillo's buzzer-beater.

Shirley's remained unbeaten in the league in 11 games (10 in the regular season) and it hopes to keep it that way when it guns for the championship this Saturday against the winner of the Fiesta Resort-Kanoa Resort semis tiff. Kanoa and Fiesta's Final Four showdown will be reset, as there was a miscommunication in the scheduling of the game that was supposed to be played at 4pm last Saturday.

Dela Rosa top-scored in Shirley's close win with his 37 points, while Sedillo also had a 30-plus output with his 34. Dela Rosa and Sedillo alternately led Shirley's offense in the first half with the former capitalizing on his height advantage to cherry pick in the paint and the former converting several fastbreak layups and short jumpers.

Rabasto added 9 points for Shirley's despite missing the entire first half and hit rally halting baskets in the second half. Villanueva paced POI with his 31 markers, while Palacios and Arago chipped in 20 and 16, respectively.

Shirley's 93 – Dela Rosa 37, Sedillo 34, Rabasto 9, Jugos 8, Laxa 2, Drillon 2.

POI 91 – Villanueva 31, Palacios 20, Arago 16, Floresca 7, Kim 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-10, 51-34, 71-66, 93-91.

COP

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improve his game.

"I am lucky and happy to have met [Noriko]. She is one of the best amateur golfers from Japan. She acts like my coach," said Miyamoto with a laugh.

Miyamoto said that he has no plans of beating his own score but if ever he has the chance, he will try to shoot lower.

He added that his age won't stop him from playing golf until the day he kicks the bucket.

"I'll keep playing golf and maybe do it again if I still can. I have nothing more to do and I enjoy playing golf and I will die on the golf course."

SAIPAN

From Page 28

mine the division champion. Yellow, behind Wataru Kadokura scored the first goal, before Sagar equalized and later hit the go-head goal on a breakaway play a few seconds before the five-minute match ended. Joining Kadokura on the runner-up Yellow Team were Julia Christine Jinang, Khojiro Goto, Akash Rai, and Joshua Capati.

Members of champion squad received balls from SSS, while Yellow Team players and participants from the two other squads received gifts from organizers. Blue Team, which was composed of Kenny Laquian, Jereme Quimzon, David Kahdka, Sunshine Gautum, and Mariana Katherine Angeles, took the fair play award. Completing the U8 division was Red Team, which was made up of Anthony Bergancia, Daniel Jim, Angelo Maliwanag, and Megan Rana.

In the U10 age group, the champion Red Team was led by Taka Borja, who scored one of the goals in the finals against Blue Team and was selected MVP in the division. Jerick Quimzon drilled the other goal and was joined on the squad by Elvira Zhang, and William Jones. Blue Team was bannered by Akira Kadokura, who tallied the lone goal for his squad, which also had Rohan Basnet, Julianne Hall, Leo Takahashi, and Ichiro Borja.

Green Team was handed the fair play award in the U10 division. The squad was composed of A.J. Ortega, Praise Woo, Audrey Castro, and Aditya Rai. Completing the field was Yellow Team, which had Khotaro Goto, Richard and Aubrey Castro, Melvin Rai, and Jason Quimzon as members.

Meanwhile, camp director Jershwin Angeles thanked the parents for enrolling their children in two-monthlong event.

"We've seen a lot of improvement from the kids during the camp. We saw players who have potentials and can now play in the upcoming youth league. We hope you will continue to encourage your kids to join our camp so we can help them improve not only their football skills, but also their social skills. Thanks you very much for entrusting your children to us," Angeles said during the awards presentation.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	78	56	.582	—
New York	70	64	.522	8
Toronto	68	67	.504	10½
Tampa Bay	66	70	.485	13
Boston	59	76	.437	19½
Central Division				
Detroit	74	61	.548	—
Kansas City	74	61	.548	—
Cleveland	70	64	.522	3½
Chicago	61	75	.449	13½
Minnesota	59	76	.437	15
West Division				
Los Angeles	82	53	.607	—
Oakland	78	57	.578	4
Seattle	72	62	.537	9½
Houston	58	79	.423	25
Texas	53	82	.393	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	77	57	.575	—
Atlanta	71	65	.522	7
Miami	66	68	.493	11
New York	63	73	.463	15
Philadelphia	62	73	.459	15½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	73	62	.541	—
St. Louis	72	63	.533	1
Pittsburgh	71	64	.526	2
Cincinnati	65	71	.478	8½
Chicago	61	75	.449	12½
West Division				
Los Angeles	76	60	.559	—
San Francisco	73	62	.541	2½
San Diego	64	70	.478	11
Arizona	56	79	.415	19½
Colorado	54	81	.400	21½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saipan Soccer School 2014 Summer Camp

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

U8 MVP Sagar Khadka, right, poses with camp director Jershwin Angeles.

Participants and Saipan Soccer School staff pose for a photo at the conclusion of the 2014 Summer Camp last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Members of the Green Team pose with the bags they received for winning the fair paly award in the U10 age group.

Players of U8 champion Green Team show the soccer balls they won in the mini tournament.

Yellow Team's Julia Jinang, right, tries to stop the ball.

A Green Team player is defender by a Red Team player.

Members of the Blue Team pose for a photo after getting the fair play award in the U8 age group.

Players lineup to receive school gift items from camp volunteers.

Red Team players pose with the balls they received after topping the U10 contest.

Red Team's goalie uses his leg to foil a goal attempt from Blue Team.

Champ Bailey, Michael Sam among NFL cuts

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Isner loses to Kohlschreiber in US Open 3rd round

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Scary win brings Shirley's to finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop's Fradel Sedillo pulls up for a shot against POI's Ramsa Tenepere during the third quarter of their semis game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked Shirley's Coffee Shop flirted with disaster before thwarting a persistent Pacific Oriental, Inc., 93-91, in the lone semis game played in the 2014 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fradel Sedillo prevented POI from pulling the rug under Shirley's, as he canned the winning basket, a buzzer-beating 10-foot jumper from the left baseline. The dagger came after Sedillo missed a go-ahead bucket earlier from relatively the same spot, allowing POI to steal the lead, 91-89, as Jason Palacios converted a fastbreak layup on the other end against Shawn Rabasto, 36.2 seconds left in the match.

Now down after controlling the knockout game right from the get-go and leading by as much as 17 points, Shirley's pushed the ball quickly and muffed its first attempt to tie the match, as Ariel Drillon overshot a point-blank attempt. Fortunately for Shirley's, Rommel Usi got the offensive rebound and brought the ball out before feeding a cutting Rabasto, who nailed the equalizer, 17 seconds remaining in the game.

After the deadlock, POI opted not to call a time out and paid the price on its gamble, as Ferdie Arago was forced to go for a one-on-one play, pulled up for a long jumper from the right key,

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

Saipan Soccer Schools caps camp with festival

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Over 30 children in the U8 and U10 age group participated in a football festival that marked the conclusion of Saipan Soccer School's 2014 Summer Camp last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The festival featured a round-robin tournament for each age group with four teams formed in each division. Green Team went on to win the U8 contest against Yellow, 2-1, while Red Team triumphed in the U10 division versus Blue Team, 2-1.

The U8 champion squad was composed of Sagar Khadka, Prakhusan Rana, Marthan Cabrera, and Angela Xu. Khadka scored the two goals for Green Team and was also named as the most valuable player in the U8 age group. Green tied Yellow at the end of the elimination, forcing the two teams to play another match to deter-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Green and Yellow teams' players battle for the ball during their championship game in the U8 division of the SSS 2014 Summer Camp's mini tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Octogenarian fires 78 at COP

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Octogenarian Shinya Miyamoto is just your regular amateur weekend golfer at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, as he plays the usual 18 holes as a way to relax after a week's worth of business meetings and other personal errands.

That's why the longtime CNMI resident, and two of his companions, was surprised to learn that he shot a 78, which was unusual for an 80-year-old especially at the 6,994-yard Larry Nelson-designed championship layout.

COP presented a certificate to Miyamoto for his achievement becoming the first "Age Shooter" and "Senior Golfer" to achieve the feat he made on June 24 of this year.

"In my more than 40 years of living on Saipan, that was my first time to shoot that score. COP, for me, is the best golf course on Saipan and I play here twice a week," said Miyamoto, who taught himself how to play the sport after graduating in college.

"I just watch videos and read books. That is how I taught myself to play. I also played golf in Japan but failed to win any tournament. I even joined an amateur tournament in Japan when I was 40 years old but I missed the cut," said Miyamoto, whose farthest driving distance was 200 yards.

Miyamoto, whose automobile parts business supplies Honda cars, added that he considers COP's 447-yard par-4 Plumeria (No. 2) as the toughest hole.

"The layout is flat, it will be not so hard for some but the distance of the hole will challenge you," said Miyamoto, who also regularly joins golf tournaments on the island.

He became friends with perennial ladies title contender Noriko Togawa, who also gave him pointers on how to

See COP on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Shinya Miyamoto, third from left, shows the certificate he received from being the Age Shooter Senior Golfer from Coral Ocean Point general manager Kim Tae Ho, left, and Sales and Marketing manager Park Taewon, right. Kimiko Abe, second left, Masayo Miyamoto, and Noriko Togawa are others in photo.